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Proceedings and Debates in PARLIAMENT. [193.]

OUR accounts of the proceedings of the committee of the whole houſe on the high price of provifions came down to Dec. 10. inclufive [69.]. —— In a ſpeech made in that committee by Governor Pownal, Dec. 3. he obſerved, That the general idea of the buſineſs of this committee, in his opinion, was a very falſe one; that the prevailing notion was, that they were to labour towards a total reduction of all the neceſſaries of life, when it was evident, to any careful obſerver, that ſuch a ſcheme muſt be totally impracticable; on the contrary, any attempt of that nature would operate diametrically oppoſite to ſuch a propoſed relief, as it would be the means of keeping back the uſual ſupplies at market, a certain conſequence of which muſt be, a conſiderable advance in all ſorts of provifions; that however, though an uniform total reduction could not be expected, a partial one might, and that again would poſſibly, in ſome meaſure, affect the whole. The object he had immediately in view was the article of bread, a very important one, and a comparative view of the ancient and preſent aſſize. Then ſeveral perſons were examined, as already mentioned [67.]. On a report from this committee, Dec. 3. the Houſe appointed a committee to examine the ſeveral laws now in being relative to the aſſize of

bread, and to report the same, with their opinion thereon, to the House.

Accordingly, Dec. 21. Gov. Pownal reported, from the assize-of-bread committee, That the committee had examined several evidences from the several branches of this business, viz. the corn-factor, the mealman, and the baker: That the committee do find, that from time immemorial, to the 31st Geo. II. there was, in all assize-tables made under the law, a wheaten bread, made of flour the whole produce of the wheat, [that is, without boulting], the said flour weighing, at an average, three fourths of the weight of the wheat whereof it was made; that such flour doth contain the whole nutrition or sustenance of the wheat; and that such is the best medium standard, and the most proper, which can be introduced, for bread in common use: That in the 31st of Geo. II. an act passed, *for the due making of bread*, &c. wherein it is directed, That where an assize shall be set, no other sort of bread made of wheat, except the wheaten and household, as set in the tables annexed to the said act, should be made or sold, under a penalty expressed in the act [xx. 625.]; which sorts of bread, though there be no specific description of them in the act, nor any such description to be collected from the said tables, are holden forth to be made by a division of the flour (representing the whole wheat) into two parts; the wheaten bread intended by that act being supposed to be made of the finer half, and the household bread to be made of the coarser half: That the wheaten bread made of the flour, representing the whole of the wheat, which had from time immemorial been set and stood in all assize-tables heretofore made, and was the basis and standard of all, was by this last-mentioned act excluded, and prohibited from being made and sold: That this act has never been, from the time of passing the same, nor is at this day, in actual operation, according to the true intent and meaning thereof; that the flour is not in fact so divided, nor the bread so made as is described; that very little household bread whatsoever is made; that no household bread, such as is supposed and was intended by the act, is made; that the wheaten bread which is made and sold, is not the wheaten bread intended by the act: That in consequence of the old standard wheaten bread being excluded, while the law, directing other sorts to be made, is found not to operate in practice, great confusions and many inconveniencies have arisen, and do exist; and amongst others, the market hath been prevented from being supplied, in times of scarcity, with a bread made of such flour as the law permitted to be imported for that purpose: That the committee, considering these consequences and effects of the quitting the old medium standard wheaten bread made as above described, do find, that if that standard bread made of flour which is the whole produce of the wheat, the said flour weighing, on an average, three fourths of the weight of the wheat whereof it is made, were again introduced under certain regulations and restrictions, it would tend to prevent the said confusions, and to remedy the said inconveniencies: and the committee find, that the columns calculated for the wheaten bread, in the now repealed assize-tables of the act 8° Ann. would be the proper assize for the said bread; and will have this further benefit and advantage, that when wheat (the baker's allowance included) is at seven shillings the bushel, the wheaten twelve-penny loaf of this standard bread would contain 7 lb. 7 oz. 3 dr. of bread, whereas the twelve-penny wheaten loaf, according to the assize of George II. doth contain only 6 lb. 8 oz. 4 dr. and so in the like proportion. Although the committee may apprehend, that, within the cities of London and Westminster, and within the markets dependent upon and connected with the same, some inconveniencies might arise, if the magistrate, whenever he should direct this standard wheaten bread to be made, and to set an assize thereon, should for the present be permitted to prohibit the wheaten bread now in use from being made and sold, or omit to set an assize thereon; yet they do not find, that, when and where, in any other parts of the kingdom, the magistrate shall set an assize upon, and direct this standard bread to be made, any inconvenience could arise, if there was no assize set for any bread of a finer sort, nor any such permitted to be made without a licence. On the other hand, they find, that, in order not to enhance the price of bread upon any persons who are used, or should be willing to be supplied with bread of an inferior and cheaper sort than the said standard bread, the bakers shall be at liberty

berty to bake and ſell the ſaid inferior ſorts of bread, provided they be reſtrained by ſevere penalties from ſelling, at the price of ſtandard bread, any bread which ſhall not come up to the full ſtandard in its compoſition.—Upon the whole, the committee came to the following reſolutions: "Reſolved, That it is the opinion of this committe, 1. That if the magiſtrates were by law permitted, when and where they ſhall think fit to ſet an aſſize on bread, to introduce again, under certain regulations and reſtrictions, the old ſtandard bread, of flour which is the whole produce of the wheat, the ſaid flour weighing, on an average, three fourths of the weight of the wheat whereof it is made, it will tend to prevent many inconveniencies which have ariſen in the aſſize and making of bread for ſale. 2. That the columns calculated for the wheaten bread, in the now repealed tables of the act 8° Ann. *to regulate the price and aſſize of bread*, would be the proper aſſize for ſaid ſtandard wheaten bread; and that the twelve-penny loaf of this ſtandard wheaten bread, containing the whole flour of the wheat, (the ſaid flour weighing, on an average, three fourths of the weight of the ſaid wheat), would, upon a medium, contain one pound of bread in eight more than the twelve-penny loaf of the preſent wheaten bread made under the act 31° Geo. II.*

Another report on the ſame ſubject was given in by Gov. Pownal, Feb. 1. in which he informed the Houſe, That his Majeſty, ever anxious for the welfare of all his ſubjects, particularly for thoſe who more immediately demanded his paternal care, had recommended the deplorable ſituation of the laborious and induſtrious poor to the conſideration of this Houſe; that the Noble Lord who is ſuppoſed to be the miniſter, had, in conformity with his Majeſty's wiſhes, turned his attention to that ſubject, and had accordingly moved for a committee to inquire into, and reduce, the preſent high price of proviſions; that however deſireable the attainment of ſuch an object might be, it was improbable, if not totally impracticable, becauſe, whatever might be gained in one way, muſt be counteracted in another; that to form any permanent plan for a general reduction of the neceſſaries of life, while it held out falſe lights, if proved, would be found big with concealed miſchief; that to lay down any ſcale of this nature, the influx of ſpecie of late years, the increaſed value of labour, and the produce of the fruits of the earth, muſt be jointly taken under conſideration; that in matters of ſo much and ſo notorious uncertainty, it would be embracing difficulties, and involving us in greater evils than any we now labour under; that though we could not fix on a certain ſtandard between gold and ſilver on the one part, and labour and the products of the earth on the other, we could, nevertheleſs, form an eſtimate of the real value of the latter, with reference to each other, as well as under their ſeveral denominations at former periods; that among thoſe that were moſt practicable, and of greateſt importance, the reducing the price of bread claimed our firſt attention; that it appeared, by the report now delivered in, that a bread might be made out of flour, containing three fourths of the wheat, equally nutritious with that fixed by the aſſize of the 31ſt of the late King; that by the tables of the 8th of Anne, for fixing the aſſize, it appears, that they directed ſuch a bread to be made; that if the act of the late King were repealed, and the aſſize of Anne again adopted, whereby a flour repreſenting the whole wheat were made, it would produce as wholeſome and as nutritive a bread, and produce a ſaving of four pence in the peck-loaf; that a very able and laborious writer on the corn-trade ſuppoſes, upon the beſt grounds, that there are 600,000 perſons who eat

* [A correſpondent ſtrongly recommends the ſuppreſſion of all bolting-engines, unleſs ſuch as may be judged neceſſary for accommodating people of fortune, which he would have licenſed, and put under proper regulations. This ſimple reduction, with a clauſe to prevent millers from practiſing as meaſimen, and dealing themſelves in corn and meal otherwiſe than as grinders, would entirely prevent all impure mixtures, and reduce the price of good, ſound, wholeſome bread, to a moderate price.—Another correſpondent, who has made experiments in grinding, aſſures us, that a quarter of wheat of eight buſhels will produce, from the mill, fourteen buſhels of bran and flour; by which it is eaſy to conceive what advantage it would be to the poor of the country to have their corn ground at a ſtated price, and the miller to be obliged to return the whole griſt. Some regulations of this kind would be of ſervice to the poor, but the benefits they can receive from importation will ſcarce ever be felt. *Gent. Mag.*]

wheaten bread in the cities of London and Weſtminſter, and the places annexed; that each of thoſe on an average conſume the produce of a quarter * of wheat in bread, amounting to 14,000,000 of peck-loaves, which, at a faving of 4 d. each, would make more than 4,000,000 ſhillings, or near 240,000 l. Sterling; that ſuppoſing the poorer ſort of people to form but two thirds of this number, this would amount to no leſs than an annual faving of 160,000 l. to the laborious and induſtrious inhabitants of London and Weſtminſter, and their vicinity; that taking up the above computation on a larger ground, the ſame author ſuppoſes, that all the people who eat wheaten bread in England, are at leaſt 3,750,000 which, according to the laſt mentioned premiſſes, if the preſent ſcheme ſhould be happily adopted, would take a burthen off thoſe who are leaſt able to bear it of above 1,000,000 l. annually. He next informed the Houſe of a variety of curious and important lights, that had been gathered in the committee, both from parole information, and the cuſtoms of ancient times, particularly the latter, by which it was diſcovered, that from the 21ſt of Edward III. to the late King's reign, the manner of fixing the aſſize never varied; and even, upon cloſer inſpection they found, that the former had been only collected from much more remote times, even ſo far back as the great Alfred, which was for a period of above 800 years. Sir Richard Sutton likewiſe ſpoke for a conſiderable time, and ſo did Mr Huſſey. — Mr Pownal then made a motion, That a bill be brought in for the making of bread, and regulating the preſent aſſize; which was agreed to; and Lord North, Sir Richard Sutton, Mr Dowdeſwell, Mr Field, Mr T. Townſhend, Mr Huſſey, and Mr Mackworth, were ordered to prepare and bring in the ſame.

Gov. Pownal, on Tueſday March 2. informed the Houſe, that the importation and exportation corn bill, which had lain over ſince before the holidays, deſerved the particular and ſerious attention of the Houſe; that it equally concerned the landed and commercial intereſts of this country, adminiſtration and the people at large; that, convinced of its importance, both in a private and political light, he ſpared no pains in his power to gain every information that might be of aſſiſtance in inveſtigating an affair of ſo much conſequence; that he had, in the courſe of his inquiries, and the correſpondence opened for that purpoſe, been furniſhed with a variety of obſervations from perſons competent to judge of a matter of that nature; and that he intended to lay the ſame before the Houſe when the bill came to be reconſidered. He then moved, that the bill be recommitted for Friday next; which was agreed to. — Obſerving the Houſe did not pay that attention which he imagined a ſubject of ſuch a nature deſerved, he emphatically called on the gentlemen of adminiſtration, on thoſe of landed property, on the merchants, the manufacturers, and mechanics, for their aſſiſtance in ſo arduous and important an undertaking.

A petition from the city of London, relative to the hardſhips the poor labour under, on account of the high price of proviſions, was preſented, March 3. by the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs to the Commons. The prayer of this petition was, to grant a bounty of 4 s. a-quarter on all wheat that ſhould be imported between the 31ſt of March and the 31ſt of July next. On this ſubject Mr Harris contended, That this would be the ſureſt means of raiſing the price of all ſorts of grain, both in reſpect to the diſcouragement it would give to agriculture, and the opportunity foreigners would have of making us pay their own prices; for though it might encourage the merchant to import, he would ſtill have it in his power, by monopoly and combination, to ſink the bounty in his own pocket, and at the ſame time to keep up the price; that the citizens of London might be very good judges of trade, but it was not expected they could be ſo of what totally fell without their knowledge and experience; and, in fine, that it would be juſt as reaſonable for country-gentlemen to pretend to form regulations for the better conducting and improving trade and commerce, as it was for the citizens of London to interfere in matters in which they were equally inexperienced, and inadequate to judge of.

To

* [A quarter of wheat for each perſon is much too large an allowance, if three fourths of the ſubſtance be converted into meal. A quarter of wheat, on an average, ſhould weigh 480 lb. three fourths of which amount to 360 lb of flour; that quantity converted into bread, will weigh 425 lb. which is more than a pound a-day for each perſon, upon an average, infants included. *Gent. Mag.*]

To this Mr Sawbridge anfwered, That if the world were to judge purely from the effects of thofe who conducted for fome years paft that great branch of national importance, the rendering provifions cheap to the laborious and induftrious poor, it may be well deemed high time to change hands, as in all probability the citizens would be found a match for the country-gentlemen; that in the laft fcarcity, in the year 1767, fo far were the latter from knowing any thing relative to the true ftate of the kingdom with refpect to the ftock of corn, that it was a citizen, Alderman Nelfon, then Lord Mayor, who furnifhed adminiftration with that alarming but feafonable information, that all the corn in the kingdom would not anfwer the confumption of many days, by which means the ports were immediately opened by proclamation, and the nation faved from a famine; and that he himfelf was a country-gentleman as well as the Hon. Gentleman who fpoke laft, and if he knew any thing, he was well acquainted with agriculture; and that for his part, confidering the fhort crops, and the neceffity the farmers have been under fome years paft to fow more ground with wheat than was in proper order, (which evil, without fome fignal interpofition of Providence, muft yearly continue to increafe), he knew of no mode fo probable to reduce the price of all kinds of grain, as giving a bounty on its importation under certain reftrictions. The queftion was at length put, Whether the petition be referred to the provifion-committee? and it paffed in the negative, without a divifion; and it was poftponed for three months.

On Thurfday the Commons went into a committee of the whole Houfe on the corn exportation and importation bill, when a great number of amendments were propofed, and feveral of them agreed to. When the claufe, fixing the price of oats when to be imported duty free, was read, a very warm debate enfued, fupported by feveral Scottifh members. They contended, That oats in general, under feveral forms, was the chief food of the greater part of their countrymen; that they breakfafted on it when made into porridge, dined on it made into bread, and fupped on it boiled up into borgou; that permitting the exportation of oats on a fmall duty, when the price was at 16 s. per quarter, and taking off every duty when it rofe to 18 s. would difcourage the farmer from growing that kind o grain in Scotland, which was in reality difcouraging the raifing every fpecies of bread-corn in that kingdom; that it would be at once deftructive of the landed intereft there, and diftrefs the poor; that before the treaty of union, and fince a bounty on exportation by the laws of that country was to take place at 15 s. and no importation allowed till the price came to 19 s. 4 d. that confidering the decreafed value of money fince that period, the fcale of prices now propofed, of 14 s. for the bounty, and 16 s. for the importation, went in the ftrongeft manner againft thofe former regulations, which have continued fince Charles II.'s reign; that thofe prices having been fettled at the treaty of union in 1707, the innovations now propofed were an evident breach of that treaty, and confequently of the conftitution of the two united kingdoms; that the perfect fatisfaction expreffed by the land-owner, the confumer, and grower of corn, in that part of the ifland, with the law as it now ftands, is the fureft teft of the benefit derived from it to each of thefe; and that as oats are not cultivated in South Britain for human food, but for horfes, it would be extremely cruel and unjuft in the legiflature, to ftarve their Northern fellow-fubjects, in order that the gentlemen in the Southern parts of the ifland may be thereby enabled to feed their horfes at a cheaper rate. To thofe objections it was anfwered, That if permitting the importation at a lower price than ufual would be a means of falling the price, why fhould not that conficeration operate equally with all? that keeping up the prices on the native confumer, in order purely to increafe the value of land, was a policy, that, however fecretly purfued, ought not to be publicly avowed; that the fcale of prices in William and Mary's reign were thofe in force at the time of the Union in England; that the price at which importation was permitted from that time till very lately was, wheat at 2 l. 13 s. 4 d. per quarter; whereas the prefent bill fixed it at 2 l. 8 s. and fo with all other grain in proportion; fo that if there was a decreafe of one fifteenth in fcale eftablifhed at that period in Scotland, there was one tenth fo far as the prefent bill affected England; that therefore no breach of that fundamental

treaty

treaty could be pretended, in the inſtance now propoſed, unleſs the gentlemen on the other ſide could ſhew, that the reduction was partial, and not proportioned. At length Mr Pulteney propoſed, that as the bill was to be recommitted, that a clauſe might be inſerted on the report, that the proviſions now objected to might not extend to Scotland, as he preſumed the Houſe would agree, that the gentlemen from that country were the beſt judges of their own intereſt. Lord North, on this propoſal, declined all further oppoſition, and the committee proceeded in their amendments. The ſpeakers againſt the clauſe were, the Lord Advocate of Scotland, Mr Pulteney, and Mr Dempſter; in its favour, Lord North, Gov. Pownal, and Mr Dowdeſwell.

The matter was again reſumed on the 17th, when Gov. Pownal let fall the following aſſertions: That every method which had been hitherto adopted to lower the price of proviſions were inadequate, the prohibiting an exportation of corn, and encouraging an importation, tending only, the former to create an alarm of its ſcarcity, the latter an ill-grounded expectation of plenty flowing in from foreign markets; that the moſt likely method of producing a ſufficient ſupply of corn had been neglected, viz. that of "encouraging the importation of it from our American colonies;" that he had maturely conſidered every propoſal which had been made public for lowering the preſent price of proviſions; amongſt the reſt, that of reducing the number of horſes, and diſcouraging, by a heavy taxation, their breed; but that this would by no means anſwer the end; for whilſt cuſtom, luxury, or call it what you pleaſe, hath rendered thoſe animals ſo neceſſary, a tax, however heavy, would not contribute to make them leſs uſed; on the contrary, by making them more valuable, it would enlarge inſtead of leſſening their numbers; that the number of coaches is doubled ſince they were taxed [ix. 143.]: on the whole, as no method had hitherto been or could be adopted, which might promiſe to rectify the evil complained of; in particular, as that committee could do NOTHING to lower the price of proviſions; the Governor moved for its diſcharge, as well in juſtification to themſelves, as to undeceive the public, who might naturally expect that relief from parliament, whilſt the committee, continued ſitting, which it was really not in the power of parliament to give *. The committee adjourned till Wedneſday.

This ſubject was again taken under conſideration, March 26. and the following is the ſubſtance of the debate upon it.

Sir Geo. Saville. Sir, I am of opinion, that the ancient corn-laws of this kingdom, particularly the bounty-act, are to be conſidered as the wiſeſt exertions of the wiſdom of our anceſtors upon this ſubject. Sir, I conceive thoſe laws will now be permanently deſtroyed; and particularly, by the ſcale of prices ſpecified in this bill, there is no gradation from a free exportation to an exportation with bounty. Sure there ſhould be a price mentioned, at which exportation may be allowed without a bounty. The prices alſo are too low. I ſhould propoſe that the bounty ſhould be given till wheat is 48s. and free exportation till it is 52s. but the prices in the bill quite reverſe the ideas of the old bounty-act.

Gov. Pownal. The Hon. member has quite miſtaken the grounds upon which

* [With ſubmiſſion, (ſays a citizen of Edinburgh, in the Courant of March 29.), a further parliamentary effort might have been made, at no heavy charge to the nation:— Suppoſe 15,000 l had been voted, as an encouragement for importing grain, on ſome ſuch plan as this; — For a premium of 6s. per quarter for the firſt 20,000 quarters imported into London, and for the firſt 5000 imported into each of the towns of Briſtol, Newcaſtle, Edinburgh, and Glaſgow, being the growth of our own colonies in America, is, for 40,000 quarters, 12,000 l.; and a premium of 3s. per quarter for the firſt 20,000 quarters more, imported into the five ports above mentioned, in the above proportions, from any foreign country, is 3000 l.; — ſuch a quantity, if got, would be no ſmall ſupply; and being reſtricted to reaſonable quantities, no unequal premium [221.] —— But this gentleman thinks, that by the middle of March the ſeaſon was too far advanced for an importation from America; for that a commiſſion to Philadelphia for wheat, ought to be diſpatched at lateſt in January, ſo as the wheat might be put on board in April; becauſe, in ſummer, grain could not with ſafety ſtand ſo tedious a navigation as often occurs. The premium, which is a little under the common freights, he conſiders, not as a mercantile bounty on trade, but as a temporary expedient, when our markets are bare, to prevent an exorbitant riſe in the prices.]

this

this bill is framed. Sir, the bounty-act of 1689, though given nominally at 48, meant no more than the price of 36; for you may ſee in your Journals of that time, that the guinea was worth above 30s. ſo that 48s. was in fact 36s. the bounty deducted, leaves 31s.: and as it appears, that the price of corn in Europe, for many years paſt, has been, on an average, at 32s. 6d. it ſhews the wiſdom of that parliament, in meaning to reduce the price in England ſomething under the price of Europe, in order that your corn might become an object of commerce through Europe, which it could not be, if it was not at leaſt as cheap here as elſewhere. Sir, we ſhould guard againſt being avaricious of high prices; for if your corn is not cheap comparatively, it can never be an object of commerce. This is a point which ſhould be well attended to; for unleſs you can be cheap, you will never be traders in corn.

Mr Burke. I riſe, Sir, in defence of this bill, becauſe I think it is a remedy to the many temporary laws with which we have been peſtered for fifteen years paſt. That there are faults in this bill, I well know, and could lay before the Houſe a long liſt; but I do not conſider this as the queſtion. I think, if the bill remedies the inconveniencies of the temporary laws, we ſhall reap all the good that is at preſent expected. Sir, the bounty upon the exportation of corn was given as an encouragement not only to agriculture, but alſo to navigation: it was conſidered by all wiſe men as a limb of the navigation. Nothing, Sir, can be ſo pernicious as the ſyſtem of temporary laws with which we have been deluged. It has been upon theſe principles that the King, in his ſpeech from the throne, recommended our attention to the price of proviſions; we, Sir, in return voted an addreſs, and ſoon after appointed a committee to examine the affair, and gave thereby a handle to the whole kingdom for condemning us for undertaking that which could not be effected. Sir, to this we may look for the miſchiefs we have done; and God forbid I ſhould ever incur the guilt of the preſent miniſter in this moſt miſchievous affair. No wonder we receive petitions for importation, and even for giving a bounty on it, ſuch as we received from the city of London. Sir, never was any thing ſo abſurd. The city acted with that ignorance of thoſe matters, which will always be found in cities. We ſhould not condemn them; we ſhould pity their ignorance. The citizens look for ſhowers of barn-door fowls raining on them from heaven. They come with propriety before us on points of commerce and manufacture; and I hope we ſhall ever attend to them with care: but when they preſume to tell us how we are to conduct ourſelves in relation to the products of our lands, to our pigs, poultry, butter, cheeſe, &c. let us not attend to ſuch impracticable ſchemes as theſe idle people would perſuade us to attempt: we never muſt think of following ſuch raw indigeſted ſchemes as are every day laid before us. I muſt profeſs myſelf a friend to the bill, not becauſe it is good, but becauſe it is better than the ſyſtem of evil we are at preſent in.

Mr Townſhend. Sir, I beg leave to object to one part of this bill, which is the novel part of it, giving a bounty upon oats. Now, Sir, this certainly is giving an encouragement to the growth of oats, which is already a nuiſance to the public. Sir, there are ſeven farms on the Bath road, in which I had the curioſity of making inquiries, and I find near 5000 acres of land employed in raiſing oats for them. Now, Sir, I do conceive, that this is not an object that demands encouragement, and therefore I wiſh it may not receive it.

After a long and minute examination, the amendments made to the bill were agreed to, the bill was ordered to be ingroſſed, and to be read a third time on Friday next.

Accordingly on Friday, April 2. the bill was read a third time, paſſed, and ſent to the Lords for their concurrence; which having been obtained, it received the royal aſſent, May 10. [264.]

The Scottiſh members declined the intended clauſe in it reſpecting oats, on account of the great diſcontent ſhewn by their conſtituents.

An old Portugueſe anecdote.

PEdro I. the eighth King of Portugal, diſtinguiſhed his reign by a ſteady and impartial adminiſtration of juſtice, by which he rendered his people no leſs happy than himſelf. The following inſtance of his equity and inflexibility is very remarkable.

An eccleſiaſtic, in a high fit of paſſion, killed a maſon whom he had employed, for not executing ſomething agreeable to his mind. The King diſſembled his knowledge

knowledge of the crime, and left it to the cogniſance of the proper courts; where the iſſue of the buſineſs was, that the prieſt was ſuſpended from ſaying maſs for a year. At this ſlight punihment the family of the deceaſed was highly offended. The King cauſed it to be hinted to the maſon's ſon, that he ſhould kill the prieſt. He did ſo, and falling into the hands of juſtice, was condemned to ſuffer death: but as no capital ſentence could be executed without the King's conſent, this was laid before him amongſt the reſt: upon which he aſked, "What was the young man's trade?" It was anſwered, "That he followed his father's." Then ſaid the King, "I ſhall commute this punihment, by reſtraining him from meddling with ſtone and mortar for a twelvemonth." After this affair he puniſhed capital crimes in the clergy with death; and when they deſired that his Majeſty would be pleaſed to refer their cauſes to a ſuperior tribunal, he anſwered very calmly, "This is what I mean to do, for I ſend them to the higheſt of all tribunals, to that of *their* Maker and *mine*."

To the author of the SCOTS MAGAZINE.

SIR, *Liberton, May* 19. 1773.

YOur giving a place to the following queſtions, relating to Magnetiſm, that they may be anſwered by ſome of your learned correſpondents, will oblige your conſtant reader, J. L.

1. How many methods are there of communicating the magnetic power to a compaſs-needle?

2. What is the beſt method of preſerving that power when once communicated?

3. What is the beſt form of ſuch a needle; whether round, ſquare, flat, ſtraight, or curved? and what the beſt cape for ſuch needles?

4. Does the magnetic needle always keep the ſame direction, ſo as its accuracy may be depended upon in practice? if not, what is the cauſe?

5. What is the beſt method of aſcertaining the needle's declination and inclination?

6. Is the needle's magnetic direction the ſame in a very hot as in a cold day; or in the time of a great froſt, as in temperate weather?

7. Is the needle's magnetic power and direction the ſame on the top of high hills, as on low grounds? if not, what is the cauſe?

SIR, *April* 1.

LEſt it ſhould be ſuppoſed that I have been willing to correct in others an abuſe of which I have been guilty myſelf, I beg leave to declare, that in all my life, I never wrote, or dictated, a ſingle paragraph, letter, or eſſay, in a newſpaper, except a few moral eſſays, under the character of a Chineſe, about ten years ago, in the Ledger; and a letter, to which I ſigned my name, in the St James's Chronicle. If the liberty of the preſs therefore has been abuſed, I have had no hand in it.

I have always conſidered the preſs as the protector of our freedom, as a watchful guardian, capable of uniting the weak againſt the incroachments of power. What concerns the public moſt properly admits of a public diſcuſſion. But of late, the preſs has turned from defending public intereſt, to making inroads upon private life; from combating the ſtrong, to overwhelming the feeble. No condition is now too obſcure for its abuſe, and the protector is become the tyrant of the people. In this manner the freedom of the preſs is beginning to ſow the ſeeds of its own diſſolution; the great muſt oppoſe it from principle, and the weak from fear; till at laſt every rank of mankind ſhall be found to give up its benefits, content with ſecurity from its inſults.

How to put a ſtop to this licentiouſneſs, by which all are indiſcriminately abuſed, and by which vice conſequently eſcapes in the general cenſure, I am unable to tell; all I could wiſh is, that, as the law gives us no protection againſt the injury, ſo it ſhould give calumniators no ſhelter after having provoked correction. The inſults which we receive before the public, by being more open are the more diſtreſſing; by treating them with ſilent contempt, we do not pay a ſufficient deference to the opinion of the world. By recurring to legal redreſs, we too often expoſe the weakneſs of the law, which only ſerves to increaſe our mortification by failing to relieve us. In ſhort, every man ſhould ſingly conſider himſelf as a guardian of the liberty of the preſs, and, as far as his influence can extend, ſhould endeavour to prevent its licentiouſneſs becoming at laſt the grave of its freedom.

OLIVER GOLDSMITH.

A faithful narrative of the converſion and death of Count Struenſee, late prime miniſter of Denmark. Publiſhed by D. Munter, an eminent divine, who was ordered by the King to prepare him for death. To which is added, the Hiſtory of Count Enevold Brandt, from the time of his impriſonment to his death. 8vo. pp. 308. 4s. *ſewed.* Linde. [xxxiv. 258. 447, 8.]

THere does not appear the leaſt reaſon to ſcruple the authenticity of this narrative.—The means and arguments made uſe of by D. Munter for the converſion of Count Struenſee, who was a profeſſed Deiſt, an irreligious and immoral man, are related in thirty-eight conferences which paſſed between them during the Count's impriſonment. The firſt interview was on March 1. and the laſt on April 28. the day of his execution; in the courſe of which, the above clergyman took the moſt indefatigable pains to bring the Count to a thorough ſenſe of all the ſins of his paſt life; and at length rendered him, by the divine aſſiſtance, a moſt ſincere penitent.—We here ſubjoin the 38th and laſt conference between C. Struenſee and D. Munter, (as related by the latter), which paſſed on the day of the Count's execution.

"ACCORDING to the account of the officer who had the watch, the Count, who now was certainly no more an unhappy man, had been reading a good while the preceding evening, and went to bed pretty early. He had ſlept for five or ſix hours together very ſoundly. When he wakened in the morning, he had ſpent a good while in deep meditation. He then got up, dreſſed himſelf, and converſed with the officer very compoſedly.

I found him lying on a couch, dreſſed as he intended to go to the place of execution. He was reading Shlegel's ſermons on the ſufferings of Chriſt, and received me with his uſual ſerene and compoſed countenance.—— He ſaid,

"I was thinking laſt night, whether it might not ſtrengthen me in my way to death, if I was to fill my fancy with agreeable images of eternity and future bliſs. I might have uſed for this purpoſe *Lavater's Proſpects into eternity.* But I will not venture to do this. I rather think it better to take this great ſtep in cool conſideration. Fancy, if once put in agitation, can ſoon take a falſe turn. It could diſmiſs (perhaps) at once, my agreeable and pleaſing proſpects of eternity, and eagerly catch at the formidable circumſtances of death, by which means I fear that I ſhould be unmanned. Even in going to the place of execution I will not indulge it, but rather employ my reaſon in meditating on the walk of Chriſt to his death, and apply it to myſelf."

He then deſired me, if I thought it neceſſary, to aſſure his judges in his name once more, that what he had confeſſed [xxxiv. 214, 15, 58. 325.], was in all reſpects the truth, and that he had not wilfully concealed any thing which he himſelf or others could be charged with.—— He continued:

"When I awoke this morning, and found that it was day-light, my whole body was ſeized with a vehement trembling. I took directly to prayer, and conſidered the comforts of religion. I prayed for the King, that God's wiſdom and mercy might guide him, and that he perſonally might be perfectly happy. I ſoon recovered my ſpirits again. I am now calm and compoſed, and I am ſure I ſhall remain ſo. Why ſhould I make myſelf uneaſy, when I am fully convinced of my ſalvation? God has forgiven me my ſins, and even thoſe which I do not remember; he has pardoned me for thoſe things which he ſtill diſlikes in me, and which I by ſelf-examination could not diſcover, and therefore could not reform. God cannot forgive vice in general without doing the ſame in every particular ſpecies of vice. The remembrance of the ſufferings of Chriſt, who has ſatisfied God for all men, aſſure me of this. And ſince I am ſo certain of my ſalvation, I do not dread death. Fear of death would be inconſiſtent under circumſtances ſo full of a happy eternity. Beſides, I cannot complain that my fate is too hard. I know that I deſerve this, and ſtill more. But "who ſhall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect?—Who is he that condemneth?"

I took the opportunity he gave me to explain to him the whole eighth chapter of St Paul to the Romans: There were ſo many beautiful paſſages which were excellently well adapted to his former and his preſent ſituation. The moſt viſible calmneſs was to be obſerved in his whole countenance; and he frequently prevented my going on, by falling into the ſame obſervations I was juſt going to make in order to ſtrengthen his faith.

He now aſked me, "How far am I permitted

mitted to keep up my fortitude by natural means? for inſtance, by endeavouring to retain preſence of mind, and not to permit myſelf to be carried away by imagination and fancy?"

I anſwered, "If God has given you a certain ſtrength of ſoul, it is his will that you ſhall make uſe of it in thoſe moments when you ſtand moſt in need of it. But no inward pride or any ill-founded complacency is to interfere. You are to do nothing merely for the ſake of being applauded by the ſpectators on account of your reſolution and compoſure. You are to be above ſuch things. God loves ſincerity, which conſiſts in ſhewing ourſelves outwardly as we are inwardly. Shew yourſelf therefore exactly in the manner as you feel yourſelf within. If you even ſhould be ſo much affected as to ſhed tears, do not hide them, and do not be aſhamed of them; for they are no diſhonour to you. You cannot conceal from yourſelf, even unto the very laſt moment of your life, why you are to die. You would do wrong, and offend true Chriſtians, if you were to die with a chearfulneſs, which can only fall to the ſhare of thoſe that ſuffer for the ſake of truth and virtue. I wiſh to ſee you on the ſcaffold with viſible ſigns of repentance and ſorrow, but at the ſame time with a peace of mind which ariſes from a confidence of being pardoned before God. I ſhould even diſlike to ſee you conceal the natural fear of death.

He ſaid, "I am certainly not inclined to make any ſhew before men. Nothing can be now more intereſting to me than to pleaſe God, and to conquer the terrors of death. If I ſhould force myſelf to appear outwardly different from what I am within, it would happen to me what happens to a man who is to ſpeak to an eminent perſon, and has well conſidered every thing he is going to ſay, but now begins to ſtammer, and, by endeavouring to prevent this, becomes quite ſpeechleſs. I ſhall, as much as lies in my power, direct my thoughts towards God, and not diſturb myſelf by ſtudying to ſatisfy the expectation of the ſpectators. Therefore I ſhall ſay nothing on the ſcaffold, but what you yourſelf ſhall give me occaſion for."

"I aſſure you, (ſaid I), I ſhall give you very few opportunities for it; the ſcaffold is neither for you nor for me the place for ſpeaking much. When you are there, it will be your buſineſs to ſtrengthen your thoughts as much as poſſible, forgetting thoſe things which are behind, and reaching forth unto thoſe things which are before."

"Now, (ſaid he), ſince I am ſo near death, I find how neceſſary and how beneficial to men the poſitive aſſertion of Chriſt is of the exiſtence of eternity. If I was not ſure of this, mere reaſon would give me but little ſatisfaction upon this queſtion, Whether a few hours hence any thing would be left of me that retained its life? — I can likewiſe tell you, from my preſent experience, that a bad conſcience is worſe than death. I now find comfort againſt death, but as long as the former laſted, I had no peace within me. I believe that I ſhould have become quite hardened, if this wound had not been healed. — I believe you have obſerved, that I would not let thoſe ſenſations which were produced by my certainty of being pardoned before God, grow very lively. They might have hindered me in my ſtudying to reform my heart, and in examining myſelf. But now I enjoy the comfort of being conſcious to have done what I could to pleaſe God."

In the letter to the Chamberlain de Brandt, (mentioned in the preceding conferences), he had ſaid, that he had become innocently the cauſe of his brother's misfortunes. He deſired me to explain theſe words to him: "That he, with a good intention, had brought his friend Brandt to Copenhagen, and had kept him from withdrawing himſelf, when he had a good opportunity for it."

Now the door of the priſon opened; for which the Count himſelf never, but I very often, had looked with a fearful expectation. — An officer came in, and deſired me, if I pleaſed, to ſtep into the coach, and to go before the Count to the place of execution. I was much moved and affected. The Count, as if it did not concern him in the leaſt, comforted me by ſaying, "Make yourſelf eaſy, my dear friend, by conſidering the happineſs I am going to enter into, and with the conſciouſneſs that God has made you a means of procuring it for me." — I embraced him, recommending him to the love and mercy of God, and haſtened to the place of execution.

He being ſoon called after me, got up from his couch, and followed thoſe which were to conduct him. Coming out of the priſon, and getting into the coach, he

he bowed to thoſe that were ſtanding around. Upon the way to the place of execution, he partly ſpoke to the officer who was with him in the coach, partly ſat in deep meditation.

As ſoon as both the condemned Counts, Struenſee and Brandt, were arrived in their reſpective coaches near the ſcaffold, and Count Brandt had mounted it firſt, I got into the coach of Struenſee, and ordered the coachman to turn about, to prevent his having the proſpect of the ſcaffold.

"I have ſeen him already," ſaid he. I could not recollect myſelf ſo ſoon, and he finding my uneaſineſs, ſaid, with a ſmiling countenance, "Pray do not mind me. I ſee you ſuffer. Remember that God has made you an inſtrument in my converſion. I can imagine how pleaſing it muſt be to you to be conſcious of this. I ſhall praiſe God with you in eternity that you have ſaved my ſoul."

I was ſtill more affected than before, and ſaid, that I ſhould look upon this tranſaction of mine as the moſt remarkable one during my whole life, ſince God had bleſſed it with ſo ſelf-rewarding a ſucceſs. It was a pleaſing thought to me, that we ſhould continue our friendſhip in a future world.—I ſhould have comforted him, but he, in this caſe, comforted me. He deſired me then to remember him to ſeveral of his acquaintance, and to tell ſome of them, that if he, by his converſation and actions, had miſled them in their notions of virtue and religion, he, as a dying man, acknowledged the injury he had done, begged them to efface theſe impreſſions, and to forgive him.

After ſome ſilence on both ſides, he aſked me, "Suppoſe God, ſince he knows all things, ſhould ſee, that in caſe I had lived longer, I ſhould not have kept faithfully to my preſent principles and ſentiments; could that have any influence upon that judgement which I ſhall ſoon receive?"

I anſwered, "God judges by actions that are committed, not by thoſe that are not. He judges men according as he finds them when they leave this world. He is love itſelf, and has no pleaſure in the death of him that dieth. He certainly will not condemn any one who dies in fulfilling thoſe conditions under which he has promiſed his pardon."

He then continued: "It is true, I returned late to God; but I know, that he who is from eternity, cares not for the length or ſhortneſs of time in which man has endeavoured to pleaſe him. Our Saviour ſays, without determining any thing relative to this matter, "He that comes to me, I will in no wiſe caſt out;" I therefore will make myſelf eaſy that I have kept ſo long from God and virtue."

On ſeeing the great number of ſpectators, I told him, that among theſe thouſands, there were many that would pray to God to have mercy upon him.

"I hope ſo, (ſaid he), and the thought pleaſes me."—He ſoon after added, "It is a ſolemn ſight to ſee ſo many thouſands of people together; but what are theſe thouſands, when compared with the whole ſum of all God's creatures, and how very little appears one ſingle man in ſuch a compariſon? Nevertheleſs God loves every individual man ſo much, that he has procured his ſalvation by ſacrificing his own ſon. What a love is this!—You ſee me, (continued he), outwardly, the ſame as I find myſelf within." And I perceived all the while I was ſitting with him in the coach no alteration, but that he was pale, and that it was more difficult for him to think and to converſe than it was ſome days before, or even this very morning. However, he had his full preſence of mind, knew ſeveral of thoſe that ſtood about the coach, bowed to many by pulling off his hat, and to ſome he bowed with a friendly mien.

"My eaſe, (ſaid he), is not a forced one. I cannot recollect any cauſe from which this caſe ariſes, that could diſpleaſe God. I am not ambitious to gain the applauſe of men, and I do not promiſe that I ſhall not ſhew any uneaſineſs upon the ſcaffold. I now have diſagreeable ſenſations, and I ſhall have more there, which I will not endeavour to conceal. But you may be aſſured, that my ſoul will look with calmneſs and hope beyond death. And how little is that which I am going to ſuffer, when I compare it with the ſufferings Chriſt bore when he died. Recollect only his words: "My God, my God, why haſt thou forſaken me?" and conſider, what excruciating pain it muſt have cauſed him, to hang for ſeveral hours on the croſs before he died!"

I exhorted him again not to ſhew any affected fortitude in theſe laſt moments which was not natural to him. Such affectations would certainly diſpleaſe God,

and if he now ſtill would mind what the ſpectators might think, I muſt tell him, that only a few ſhort-ſighted people would believe his affected firmneſs to be true.

I then ſaid, "Chriſt prayed for his murderers even on the croſs: may I rely upon your leaving this world with the ſame ſentiments of love towards thoſe you might have reaſon to think your enemies?"

"Firſt, (ſaid he), I hope that there is no one who has a perſonal hatred againſt me; but that thoſe who have promoted my misfortunes, have done it with an intent of doing good. Secondly, I look upon myſelf already as a citizen of another world, and that I am obliged to entertain ſentiments conformable to this dignity: and I am ſure, that if I was to ſee thoſe who might perhaps be my enemies here, in the bliſs of that world which I hope to enter into, it would give me the higheſt ſatisfaction. I pray to God, that if my enemes might repent of their behaviour towards me, this repentance may induce them to look out for that ſalvation which I promiſe myſelf through the mercy of God."

Though I could not ſee the ſcaffold, yet I gueſſed from the motion of the ſpectators, that it was Struenſee's turn to mount it. I endeavoured to prepare him for it by a ſhort prayer, and within a few moments we were called. He paſſed with decency and humbleneſs through the ſpectators, and bowed to ſome of them. With ſome difficulty he mounted the ſtairs. When we came up, I ſpoke very conciſely, and with a low voice, upon theſe words of Chriſt: "He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet ſhall he live." It would have been impoſſible for me to ſpeak much and loud, even if I had attempted it.

I obſerve here, that he ſhewed not the leaſt affectation in his conduct upon the ſcaffold: I found him to be one who knew that he was to die, on account of his crimes, by the hands of the executioner. He was pale, it was difficult for him to ſpeak, the fear of death was viſible in his whole countenance; but at the ſame time, ſubmiſſion, calmneſs, and hope, were expreſſed in his air and deportment.

His ſentence, and afterwards the King's confirmation of it, were read to him; his coat of arms was publicly ſhewn, and broken to pieces.

During the time that his chains were taking off, I put the following queſtions to him, [and received the anſwers annexed to them].

"Are you truly ſorry for all thoſe actions by which you have offended God and men?"—"You know my late ſentiments on this point, and I aſſure you they are this very moment ſtill the ſame."

"Do you truſt in the redemption of Chriſt, as the only ground of your being pardoned before God?"—"I know no other means of receiving God's mercy, and I truſt in this alone."

"Do you leave this world without hatred or malice againſt any perſon whatever?"—"I hope no body hates me perſonally; and as for the reſt, you know my ſentiments on this head, they are the ſame as I told you juſt before."

I then laid my hand upon his head, ſaying, "Then go in peace whither God calls you! His grace be with you."

He then began to undreſs, and inquired of the executioners how far he was to uncover himſelf, and deſired them to aſſiſt him. He then haſtened towards the block, that was ſtained and ſtill reeking with the blood of his friend, laid himſelf quickly down, and endeavoured to fit his neck and chin properly into it. When his hand was cut off, his whole body fell into convulſions. The very moment when the executioner lifted up the axe to cut off his hand, I began to pronounce ſlowly the words, "Remember Jeſus Chriſt crucified, who died, but is riſen again." Before I had finiſhed theſe words, both hand and head, ſevered from the body, lay before my feet."

D. Munter concludes his narrative of Count Struenſee in the following words:

"How wonderful is God, and how great his care for the ſalvation of men that are ſtill capable of being ſaved! But how different is the judgement we are to pronounce over ſuch men, according to the principles of the kingdom of God, from that which the world pronounces! If Count Struenſee had remained in his former proſperity, and died a natural death, he might have been called a great and enlightened man through all ages, even if he had been at the bottom the greateſt villain. The world has ſeen him die a malefactor; but the diſpoſition in which he left the world, will be a ſufficient inducement for true Chriſtians to forgive him the ignominy wherewith he had ſtained his life, and to praiſe God that he died well." *Lond. Chron.*

From

From Authentic Papers relative to the expedition againſt the Charibbs.

Addreſs of the Council and Aſſembly of St Vincent to the King.

To the King's Moſt Excellent Majeſty.

WE your Majeſty's moſt dutiful, loyal, and faithful ſubjects, the Council and Aſſembly of the iſland of St Vincent, inviolably attached by every tie of duty and gratitude to your Majeſty's perſon and government, beg leave to return your Majeſty our moſt ſincere and humble thanks, for the ſupport and protection that we have hitherto enjoyed; and we moſt humbly beg permiſſion to approach the throne, and lay before your Majeſty the dangerous and diſtreſſed ſituation of this colony.

Your Majeſty's natural-born ſubjects purchaſed lands at very high prices, with an intention of cultivating them; and had met with ſucceſs beyond the moſt ſanguine expectations, with the greateſt probability of rendering this one of the moſt flouriſhing of your Majeſty's ſugar-iſlands, till unexpectedly their properties are rendered very precarious, and their lives endangered, by a rebellion of the negroes, commonly called *Black Charibbs*; principally the deſcendents of runaway negroes from Barbadoes, and the other neighbouring iſlands, who being joined by runaway ſlaves from the preſent inhabitants, in great numbers have aſſembled themſelves in arms, in the windward part of this iſland, without the leaſt provocation from the inhabitants, and have deſtroyed the highways, and prevented all communication betwixt the different parts of this iſland; daily enticing their ſlaves to join them; detaining others by force, who accidentally fall into their hands; promiſing them their liberty, arms, and lands, provided they would join and aſſiſt them in totally extirpating the white inhabitants; inſulting your Majeſty's ſubjects; forcing from their habitations the original Yellow or Red Charibbs, a harmleſs and well-affected people, who firſt afforded them an aſylum; and moſt undutifully and ungratefully denying they bear any allegiance to your Majeſty; and, in diſobedience to the laws, contemptuouſly carrying off tobacco, proviſions, and other produce, to the French iſlands, and importing their manufactures, arms, ammunition, and ſpirituous liquors; which not only make their reſidence in the country claimed by them a very great detriment to the ſettlement of the colony, but likewiſe prevent the cultivation of that valuable and extenſive tract of land, which while in their hands lies almoſt entirely uncultivated.

The paternal care your Majeſty conſtantly ſhews your ſubjects in every part of your dominions, however diſtant from the throne, encourages us to hope for your protection againſt theſe ſavages, by ſuch effectual meaſures being taken with them, as may prevent their being dangerous in time of peace, or employed in time of war by your Majeſty's enemies in haraſſing from within, while theſe from without attack this defenceleſs iſland: having but very few regular troops remaining, and being unprovided with forts, batteries, artillery, or warlike ſtores, the expences of providing which would be too great for an infant colony; but which we moſt humbly hope to be ſupplied with from the extenſive protection afforded to every part of his Majeſty's dominions, againſt the inſults of your enemies.

It remains for us moſt ardently to pray that your Majeſty, rich in every domeſtic bliſs, may long, very long, and happily, reign over a free and grateful people; and that there may never be wanting a prince of your Royal Houſe to ſway the ſceptre over theſe realms, to the lateſt poſterity.

Letter from the Earl of Hillſborough to Lt-Gov. Fitzmaurice.

SIR, *Whitehall, Aug. 4. 1769.*

HIS Majeſty has given the fulleſt conſideration to the ſtate of the iſland of St Vincent, as repreſented in your letter, N° 28. and in the Addreſs of the Council and Aſſembly which accompanies it.

The King truſts, that the prudent meaſures you have taken to ſupply the inhabitants with arms and ammunition, will, in ſome degree, remove their apprehenſions of any immediate danger from the Charibbs, and diſſipate the alarm they ſeem at preſent to be under; but if theſe ſavages ſhould continue in a ſtate of hoſtility, and you ſhould not be able, with the force which may be collected from the other iſlands within your government, to reduce them to a proper ſubmiſſion to his Majeſty; in that caſe, it is his Majeſty's pleaſure, that you do make a requiſition from the Commander in Chief of his Majeſty's forces in North America,

merica, for such an additional number of troops as you shall think absolutely necessary for that purpose; which requisition General Gage will receive the King's command to comply with, if it can be done consistent with his Majesty's service on the continent. But I have it particularly in command from his Majesty, to signify to you his pleasure, that if you shall find it absolutely necessary to make any requisition of troops from Maj-Gen. Gage, you do at the same time transmit to him a very full and explicit representation of the state of the island, together with the minute explanation of your reasons for making such requisition, and the circumstances which induce you to fix upon the number of men you shall think fit to require. —— I am, &c.

HILLSBOROUGH.

Letter from the Earl of Hillsborough to Governor Leyborne.

Separate and secret.

SIR, *Whitehall, April* 18. 1772.

Since my letter to you of the 4th of March last, your dispatch, N° 3. and the address of the Council and Assembly of St Vincent, concerning the Charibbs, have been made the subject-matter of the serious deliberations of his Majesty's confidential servants.

The representations contained in that address, and in a letter from the Commissioners for the Sale of Lands to the Lords of the Treasury [62.], of the danger to which the island is exposed, from the hostile disposition of the Charibbs, and the declarations they have made, that they not only will never submit themselves as subjects to his Majesty, but, on the contrary, of their attachment to the crown of France, have induced the King, upon the opinion of his Majesty's servants, to resolve to take effectual measures for the reduction of them, as the only means of giving security to the settlements of his Majesty's subjects in that island.

It is hoped, that the troops now dispersed in the several islands under your government, and in Dominica, when so many of them as can be spared from other necessary duty are collected together, and joined by two battalions from North America, will be a force sufficient for this service; and I have accordingly signified his Majesty's commands to Gen. Gage, that he do, as soon as possible, send two battalions of the troops under his command to the island of St Vincent; and I have also signified his Majesty's pleasure to Sir Ralph Payne, that in case, from any unhappy, though unexpected event, you should find it necessary to call for assistance from his government, he do immediately send you the whole, or such part of the regiment stationed in the Leeward Islands, as you shall require.

Besides the land-forces to be employed upon this occasion, it has also been thought expedient, that the Commander of his Majesty's naval force on the Leeward-island station, should give every assistance in his power; and I have signified his Majesty's pleasure to the Lords of the Admiralty, that they do instruct him accordingly.

It is the King's pleasure, that this service should be carried on under your direction, assisted by a council, to be composed of the Governor of Dominica, the Commanders in Chief of the Land and Sea Forces, and the Lieutenant-Governor and Council of St Vincent, or such of them as shall be present on the island; and as the troops will arrive at a season when it is much to be wished they should stay as short a time as possible, I am to signify to you his Majesty's commands, that you do, as soon as you conveniently can, repair to the island of St Vincent, in order to concert, in the manner above mentioned, the steps it may be proper to take for carrying his Majesty's intentions into execution, and to make such preparations as may tend to forward and facilitate your operations, when the troops are collected together.

What those steps should be, depends upon a variety of circumstances, impossible to be known or decided upon here; and therefore you must, in that respect, be left to your own judgement and discretion. The King, however, hopes, that the Charibbs, when the resolution of government to subdue them is known, and they see the force prepared for that purpose, will judge differently of their situation, and by a full submission, avoid, both to themselves, and to his Majesty's troops, the disagreeable consequences of using that force; and it will be your care to endeavour, by every means in your power, to bring, if possible, this important business to that issue, and to induce the Charibbs to submit themselves to his Majesty's government, to disavow all attachment to the French, to be content with such a portion of the island as shall be thought proper to be allotted to them,

and

and to conſent to ſuch conditions of peace and amity as ſhall be judged neceſſary for ſecuring their fidelity, and rendering them uſeful ſubjects inſtead of dangerous enemies. But if neither perſuaſion, nor intreaty, ſhall have the conſequence to produce theſe effects, you will then, and in that caſe only, have recourſe to force; avoiding however, even under that exigence, as much as poſſible any unneceſſary ſeverities, that may have the appearance of cruelty or oppreſſion.

You will perceive, from what I have already ſaid, that in whatever mode the ſubmiſſion of the Charibbs is obtained, whether by force or lenity, the deſirable object is, to continue them on the iſland, under conditions that may be a ſufficient pledge of ſafety, and with an allotment of ſuch a portion of the iſland as ſhall be judged neceſſary.

It is under theſe hopes that I am commanded to recommend to your conſideration the conditions ſettled with the rebellious negroes in Jamaica, upon their reduction in 1738, and to ſend you the incloſed copy of the treaty made with them; which, allowing for difference of circumſtances, may poſſibly furniſh you with ſome uſeful hints.

After what I have ſaid, it is with great reluctance that I look forward to the conſideration of what may be fit to be done, if neither lenity nor force ſhall have the effect to induce ſuch a ſubmiſſion of theſe ſavages as may conſiſt with public ſafety: it is however an unavoidable conſideration; and it is his Majeſty's pleaſure, in conſequence of a repreſentation of ſeveral of the principal planters in St Vincent, (a copy of which I incloſe), that if neceſſity demand the removal of the Charibbs, you do take up ſuch veſſels as can be procured, to ſerve as tranſports for the conveyance of them to ſome unfrequented part of the coaſt of Africa, or to ſome deſert iſland adjacent thereto; care being taken, that they be treated upon the voyage with every degree of humanity their ſituation will admit of; and that, when put on ſhore, they be ſupplied with proviſions, and whatſoever may be judged neceſſary to ſubſiſt them for a reaſonable time, and with ſuch tools and implements as may enable them to provide for their future ſubſiſtence. And for the more certain execution of this ſervice, I have ſignified his Majeſty's pleaſure to the Lords of the Admiralty, that they do inſtruct the commander upon the Leeward-iſland ſtation, to appoint a proper convoy for the tranſports, in caſe the meaſure for the removal ſhall be adopted.

You will obſerve, Sir, that I have marked this letter as ſeparate and ſecret; and I am perſuaded you will agree with me in opinion, of the propriety of avoiding, as much as poſſible, any diſcovery of our intentions, leſt thoſe infatuated ſavages ſhould become deſperate, and commit ſome fatal acts of hoſtility before the arrival of the troops.

The King has been pleaſed to attend to this danger, and has commanded me to ſignify his Majeſty's pleaſure to the Governor of Dominica, to ſend at leaſt three of the four companies now ſtationed in that iſland, to the iſland of St Vincent, without loſs of time; and his Majeſty hopes, that this additional ſtrength will enable you, at all events, to ſtand upon the defenſive.

My letter to Gen. Gage, a copy of which I incloſe to you, will inform you, that it is his Majeſty's intention, that the two regiments to be ſent from North America, ſhould return as ſoon as the ſervice is completed; and I am to ſignify to you his Majeſty's pleaſure, that you do give the neceſſary directions accordingly.

I am, &c. [62. 86. 174. 219.]

HILLSBOROUGH.

Origin of the Coroner's Jury in England.

A Gentlewoman in London, after having buried ſix huſbands, found a gentleman hardy enough to make her a wife once more. For ſeveral months their happineſs was mutual; a circumſtance which ſeemed to pay no great compliment to the former partners of her bed, who, as ſhe ſaid, had diſguſted her by their ſottiſhneſs and infidelity. In the view of knowing the real character of his amorous mate, the gentleman began frequently to abſent himſelf, to return at late hours, and, when he did return, to appear as if intoxicated. At firſt reproaches, but afterwards menaces, were the conſequence of this conduct. The gentleman perſiſted, and ſeemed every day to become more addicted to his bottle. One evening, when ſhe imagined him dead drunk, ſhe unſewed a leaden weight from one of the ſleeves of her gown; and having melted it, ſhe approached to her huſband, who pretended ſtill to be found aſleep, in order to pour it into his ear through a pipe. Convinced

vinced of her wickedneſs, the gentleman ſtarted up, and ſeized her; when having procured aſſiſtance, he ſecured her till the morning, and conducted her before a magiſtrate; who committed her to priſon. The bodies of her ſix huſbands were dug up; and as marks of violence were ſtill diſcoverable upon each of them, the proof of her guilt appeared ſo ſtrong upon her trial, that ſhe was condemned, and executed. To this circumſtance, ſays the compiler of the *Dictionnaire d' Anecdotes*, &c. is England indebted for that uſeful regulation, by which no corpſe can be interred in that kingdom without a legal inſpection.

To the author of the SCOTS MAGAZINE.

SIR, *May* 22. 1773.

IT appears from the authority produced in the ingenious anſwer to Lord Hailes's firſt query [222.], that Edinburgh was anciently called *Caſtellum Puellarum*, or *the Maiden-caſtle*. But though this was the ancient name of *Edinburgh*, yet it is highly probable, ſome other fortified places had the ſame appellation. For inſtance: There is a romantic, rocky, riſing ground, near Roſlin, five miles ſouth from Edinburgh, a promontory jutting out into the river North-Eſk, and almoſt entirely ſurrounded by it; — which commands a moſt agreeable and extenſive proſpect on every ſide; Roſlin caſtle and chapel to the weſt; the different windings and turnings of the river, and the variegated woods, to the eaſt; and craggy cliffs and rocks, and wood iſſuing out of the rocks, to the ſouth; and is exceedingly charming and delightful; — where ſeveral foſſes and intrenchments, and other marks of fortification, are to be obſerved; which is called to this day *the Maiden-caſtle*, and is known by no other name. Its ancient name therefore moſt probably was *Caſtellum Puellarum*. But be that as it will, *Caſtellum Puellarum* in the Gaelic tongue may be rendered thus, *Caiſteal na Mnighdeaven*; *na Diau*, *na Cartuigh*, *na Hoigheau*; that is, "the caſtle of Maidens," or, "the fort or ſtrong-hold of the virgins." How the Saxons would have expreſſed *Caſtellum Puellarum*, I know not.

The above is humbly propoſed as an anſwer to the firſt part of Lord Hailes's ſecond query, What is the exact interpretation of *Caſtellum Puellarum* in the Gaelic language?

T. W.

Alterations propoſed with reſpect to the miniſters widows fund.

From a letter by Dr Webſter to the truſtees of that fund, dated April 15. 1772, *tranſmitted by them to preſbyteries, Dec.* 29. 1772.

[To each article are annexed, the opinions of the Truſtees, and of the Committee of Aſſembly, and alſo the determination of the Aſſembly, May 28.; diſtinguiſhed by the letters *T. C.* and *A.* reſpectively prefixed.]

Art. I. That the capital, over and above the ſtock or fund, conſiſting of 30l. lent, or to be lent, to every contributor, which is now limited to 50,000 l. ſhould be allowed to riſe to 70,000 l.

T. Abſolutely neceſſary.

C. Abſolutely neceſſary.

A. Agree.

Art. II. That ſo ſoon as the aforeſaid capital is made up, every annuitant who ſhall marry a miniſter or profeſſor who is a contributor to the fund, ſhall continue to enjoy her annuity, during the ſubſiſtence of the marriage, in the ſame manner as if ſhe had remained in a ſtate of widowhood, deducing only from her firſt year's annuity a ſum equal to her huſband's annual rate*; and if, at the diſſolution of the marriage, ſhe ſhall happen to be the ſurvivor, ſhe ſhall be intitled to an annuity correſponding to her laſt huſband's annual rate; it being always underſtood, and is to be expreſsly provided, That if her former huſband ſhall have left children or a child, who, at the time of her ſaid marriage, ſhall be under the age of ſixteen years, and ſhe ſhall not have drawn ten years annuity; in this caſe her annuity ſhall ceaſe and determine, notwithſtanding her having married a contributor; and ſuch children or child ſhall be intitled to the reverſion of the ſaid ten years annuity, in like manner as is now enacted with reſpect to widows who ſhall marry again. —— It is alſo to be provided, That if in any year the annual ſurplus, after payment of the charges of management, ſhall not be ſufficient to anſwer the annuities to widows, and the proviſions to children, for that year, no incroachment ſhall be made on the capital, but ſuch deficiency ſhall firſt affect the annuities of ſuch widows as have married again.

* This deduction is propoſed, becauſe, as the law ſtands at preſent, her huſband will be free from his marriage-tax.

T. This,

T. This, and the 3d, 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th articles, proper and reaſonable.

C. Reaſonable.— This article ſhould extend to widows whoſe huſbands have left children or a child, who, at the time of her marriage, ſhall be under the age of ſixteen years, if ſhe ſhall not have drawn ten years annuity; provided that the children ſhall draw her annuity till it amount to a ſum equal to the reverſion of the ten years; after which her annuity to commence.— And widows who ſhall marry contributors may be allowed to enjoy the one half of their annuity ſo ſoon as a new act of parliament ſhall be obtained; becauſe the collector informs, that ſcarce any of them marry at preſent; ſo that this might prove a ſaving to the fund.

A. Agree.

Art. III. That thoſe miniſters and profeſſors who have received, or ſhall hereafter receive, the loan of 30l. ſhall not be obliged to repay the ſame, while they continue to enjoy a benefice in the church, or an office in any of the univerſities.

C. Extremely proper.

A. Agree.

Art. IV. That every miniſter, and every perſon who ſhall hereafter be admitted to a benefice in the church, or to an office in any of the univerſities, who, at the time of his admiſſion, ſhall be forty years of age or upwards, and who was not before intitled to a benefice or office in the church or univerſities, ſhall be liable in payment of a ſum equal to two and a half years of the annual rate to which he ſhall chuſe to be ſubject, over and above the rates payable by future intrants in terms of the ſtatutes eſtabliſhing the fund *.

C. This tax ſhould take place only at the marriage of ſuch aged intrants; and perſons who ſhall have been ten years probationers within the bounds of the church of Scotland ſhould be exempted altogether.

* Since this letter went to the preſs, it has been ſuggeſted, that to reduce the ſcheme ſtill nearer to equity, and to gain further advantages in its favour, an additional tax ſhould be laid on the marriage of thoſe, particularly widowers, who marry women much younger than themſelves, becauſe ſuch diſparities of age bring very heavy burdens upon the fund. This alteration appears reaſonable; and contributors will pleaſe to ſignify their opinion concerning it.

A. Agree.

Art. V. That the collector ſhall not be obliged to make good the rates that ſhall become due by contributors, after their having ceaſed to have right to a benefice, or to an office in the church or univerſities, but to uſe legal, and, if neceſſary, ultimate diligence, for recovery of the ſame.

C. Approve, provided the collector uſe legal ultimate diligence within twelve calendar months after the contributor's right to a benefice or office ſhall have ceaſed.

A. Agree; with this addition, "and that at each annual fitting of the collector's accounts, if there be no alteration in the contributor's circumſtances, and the collector ſhall give probable evidence thereof to the truſtees, and the ſame be ſuſtained by them, the collector ſhall be exonered of ſuch article, although he ſhall not have uſed ultimate diligence for the preceding year's arrear."

Art. VI. That it ſhall be competent for the collector, in caſe of his being removed from his office before he has recovered all the rates made good by him, or for his ſureties, in caſe of his death, to levy the ſame, and alſo to levy the arrears of rates then due to the fund, (which he was bound to make good), in the ſame manner, and by the ſame diligence, as was competent for the collector himſelf, during the time of his enjoying his office, with all the privileges and preferences to which he was intitled.

C. Neceſſary and reaſonable.

A. Agree.

Art. VII. That the whole annual rates and other ſums due by contributors, and the ſum of 30l. lent to them, with the intereſt of the ſaid ſums, ſhall be privileged debts, during their life, as well as at their death, and preferable to all their other debts, not only upon their benefices and ſalaries reſpectively, but alſo upon their whole other real and perſonal eſtate, and alſo upon the ann.

C. Appears to be of no conſequence, if (as ſome preſbyteries propoſe) the collector's preference were not to extend over the ann; but divided in ſentiment, whether ſuch preference be proper or not.

A. Leave out this article.

Art. VIII. That as the annual rates are payable out of, and a preferable burden on the whole perſonal eſtate, particularly on the ſtipends and ſalaries, of the

contributors, the diſcharges to be granted by miniſters or profeſſors for their reſpective ſtipends or ſalaries, after Candlemas 1776, ſhall expreſsly bear, That they have paid their annual rate for the year preceding THAT for which the diſcharge is granted; and that if any perſon ſhall pay the incumbent upon a diſcharge which does not contain the above clauſe, it ſhall be competent for the collector to levy from him, if his proportion of ſtipend or ſalary amounts to ſo much, the ſaid annual rate, and intereſt thereof; it being always underſtood, and is to be expreſsly provided, that the collector's receipt ſhall be ſufficient warrant and authority for ſuch perſon, to detain out of the ſtipend or ſalary that ſhall fall due to the incumbent next year, a ſum equal to what he ſhall have paid to the collector; or, in caſe of the incumbent's death, to recover the ſame out of his effects, and, theſe failing, out of the ann.

7. Dr Webſter repreſented to the truſtees, That the objections to art. 8. ſo far as he can judge from the returns of preſbyteries, and from what he has heard in converſation, are as follows: That it would make an alteration on the law of the land; that it ſeems to imply a tacit reflection on the whole order of miniſters and profeſſors, for the failure of only a part of their number; that it locks up the whole ſtipend or ſalary of thoſe who run into two years arrears; that it proclaims their ſtraitened circumſtances to all their heritors, many of whom, in ſome parithes, pay only a mere trifle; and that it puts thoſe contributors who pay regularly to unneceſſary trouble;—and moved to ſubſtitute what follows in it's place.

"That if any contributor ſhall, at the term of Whitſunday 17 , or at the term of Whitſunday in any year thereafter, be two years in arrear to the fund, it ſhall be competent for the collector for the time being, to ſignify, by a notorial intimation, to the corporation or body-politic, or to the receiver-general of his Majeſty's land-rents and caſualties in Scotland, or by a notorial perſonal intimation to any one heritor or perſon, or in a parith where no one heritor or perſon is liable in payment of ſtipend or ſalary to the amount after mentioned, to two or more heritors or perſons, that the ſaid contributor is in arrear two years to the fund: which intimation ſhall ſpecify the annual rate he is ſubjected to*.

"That after ſuch intimation, the ſaid corporation or body-politic, &c. ſhall be obliged to retain yearly out of the ſtipend or ſalary due to the contributor, the ſum of nine pounds Sterling, if he is ſubjected to the rate of 6 l. 11 s. 3 d.; or the ſum of ſeven pounds ten ſhillings Sterling, if ſubjected to the rate of 5 l. 5 s.; or the ſum of ſix pounds Sterling, if ſubjected to the rate of 3 l. 18 s. 9 d.; or the ſum of four pounds ten ſhillings Sterling, if ſubjected to the rate of 2 l. 12 s. 6 d.†; and ſhall pay the ſame to the collector if demanded; whoſe diſcharge ſhall be deemed as good and ſufficient as the diſcharge of the contributor himſelf; and the ſaid ſum ſo paid ſhall be imputed by the collector to the credit of the contributor, with intereſt from the date of the receipt.

"Provided always, That notwithſtanding ſuch intimation, it ſhall not be lawful for the ſaid corporation or body-politic, &c. to detain from the ſaid contributor the foreſaid ſum, or any part thereof, but ſhall be obliged to pay the whole ſtipend or ſalary due to him, in the ſame manner, and at the ſame time, as if no ſuch intimation had been made, upon a diſcharge granted by the contributor, bearing, that he has paid his annual rate, and intereſt on his bond, due 13th February, for the crop and year preceding

* As the annual rates are payable at Candlemas, and the intimation cannot be made till after Whitſunday, the contributor may prevent the ſame, if he ſhall pay one year's rate within three calendar months after two years rates are become due: And it is alſo to be obſerved, that the above clauſe does not appoint ſuch intimation to be made, but leaves it in the option of the collector; which power moſt certainly he will not exerce but when he finds it abſolutely neceſſary.

† A contributor on the higheſt claſs, and in arrear two years at the term of Whitſunday when intimation may be made, will be owing, on account of the firſt year, including intereſt on his annual rate at 5 per cent. and one year's intereſt on his bond at 4 per cent. 8 l. 3 s. 8 d.: ſo that the 9 l. propoſed to be retained will probably not exceed the ſum due when paid, including the expence of poſtage, &c.; but if there is a ſuperplus, this will be ſtated to the credit of the contributor. The ſame obſervation holds as to the ſums propoſed to be retained from thoſe ſubjected to the lower rates.

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that for which the diſcharge is granted.

"Provided alſo, That ſo ſoon as the ſaid contributor ſhall produce to the ſaid corporation, or body-politic, &c. the collector's diſcharge, bearing, that all his arrears are cleared, the whole effect of the ſaid intimation ſhall ceaſe and determine; without prejudice to the collector to give a new intimation, in manner foreſaid, if the ſaid contributor ſhall again be two years in arrear."

If any contributor now in arrear, or afraid of falling into arrear, is of a different opinion, and chuſes, that the law as it now ſtands ſhould take its courſe, the following proviſo may be annexed.

"Provided likewiſe, That if any miniſter now in the church, or head, principal, or maſter, in any of the univerſities in Scotland, ſhall, within twelve calendar months after the day of ſignify, by a writing under his hand, directed to the truſtees, that he does not chuſe to ſubject himſelf to the conſequences of ſuch intimation, the ſaid declinature being delivered by the truſtees to the collector, he is hereby prohibited from following the above method, for recovery of the arrears of ſuch contributor, under the forfeiture of 20l. Sterling, *totes quoties*, payable to him on demand, in name of damages."

This new propoſal appeared to the truſtees to merit the ſerious attention of all concerned.

C. The committee were unanimouſly of opinion, that the above new propoſal obviated in a great meaſure the objections made to the former; and that although it might be liable to ſome difficulties, it merited, as the truſtees obſerve, the ſerious attention of all concerned.

Dr Webſter thereupon repreſented, That he had ſpent much time, and had had many anxious thoughts, to find out ſome method of levying the rates without ſubjecting his brethren to the unhappy conſequences of legal diligence, and had made various propoſals for that purpoſe without ſucceſs. He flattered himſelf that the one now before the committee might prove effectual; but, if it was diſagreeable to any of his brethren, was far from wiſhing it ſhould be adopted: on the contrary, as he was now fully convinced, that he had not ſufficient abilities to deviſe any thing proper reſpecting this matter, or at leaſt any thing that would be acceptable to thoſe concerned, he was ready, if more agreeable to the contributors, to go on in the legal courſe preſcribed by the ſtatutes eſtabliſhing the ſcheme. To this he judged himſelf bound, if no gentler methods could be pointed out, in juſtice to the fund, to his ſureties, and to himſelf; and had the ſatisfaction to think, that whatever individuals might thereby ſuffer, he had done all in his power to prevent it.

With their report, the committee tranſmitted to the aſſembly the following letter from the Procurator, to them, dated May 24.

"The Procurator may not have it in his power to attend the committee upon the widows fund, but as a contributor, and member of ſaid committee, he begs leave to ſubmit the following conſiderations, which occurred this morning upon firſt reading Dr Webſter's letter; and therefore it is hoped the committee will forgive any errors and miſtakes occaſioned by want of further time for more mature deliberation.

As to the amendments on the general ſcheme, the Procurator has abſolute confidence in the uprightneſs and ſuperior ability of the Truſtees and Collector, and neither has nor will ever think of that matter.

But as to the 8th article of the collector's letter, the mode of compelling payment, which is more on the level with the Procurator's profeſſion and practice, he humbly apprehends there has been an error in the firſt concoction, at leaſt in the execution, of the acts of parliament; and that the remedies propoſed in the letter appear to be impracticable in the execution, would not be ſubmitted to by the landed intereſt, and would rather increaſe than remove the evil.

It is taken for granted in the narrative of the laſt act of parliament, that the collector cannot effectually levy the rates by means of an ordinary action, that the expence thereof becomes very heavy on the deficients; it is therefore made lawful for the Lords of Seſſion to iſſue letters of horning at the inſtance of the collector, for compelling payment of the annual rates; and which hornings ſhall be executed, and other proceedings had thereon, as on hornings at the inſtance of miniſters for payment of ſtipend.

It is not thought that theſe general letters of horning can be either a proper, expeditious, or a cheap method of execution.

And it is informed, that the mode of execution has not been by ſuch general letters of horning, but by proceſs before the court of ſeſſion, where the arrears are conſtituted by decree, thereafter followed out, in common form, by hornings, captions, poindings, &c.

Now it is apprehended, that all this is erroneous, becauſe execution is directed againſt the miniſters perſonally by diligence upon horning, decree, &c.; or if poinding ſhall proceed on the warrant in the letters of horning, it can in the general caſe affect nothing but the crop on the glebe, the cows and horſe, the furniture of the manſe, the miniſter's library, which never ought to be taken in execution, and in every view is a tedious circuit, unneceſſary, a moſt expenſive and ruinous diligence to miniſters; and it is not ſurpriſing that it has extended in ſome caſes to 12, 15, 20, and 25 l.

This perſonal execution, with all the artillery of the law, ought in no caſe to be permitted; but proceſs, or ordinary action, ſhould be directed; and that ſolely againſt the effects; which may be carried effectually into execution at the expence of fewer ſhillings, than in the preſent method, and above examples, it has coſt pounds Sterling.

To make therefore the following propoſal more eaſily underſtood, it will be neceſſary to premiſe,

1. That by the act of parliament the annual rates are privileged debts, preferable to all other debts of the miniſter.

2. That the full expence in recovering payment of the reſpective rates, ſhall be recovered out of the reſpective debtors eſtates, without any abatement or mitigation.

3. The general collector ſhall and may appoint one or more deputies, for whom he ſhall be anſwerable.

Upon theſe enactments of ſtatute it is propoſed,

That in caſe of deficients, the collector, by miſſive letter only, ſhall conſtitute any writer, procurator, or other perſon, in or near the head borough of the county, for his deputy, *ad effectum* only for levying the annual rates in arrear, by proceſs againſt the deficients.

That in conſequence thereof, ſuch deputy ſhall raiſe proceſs before the judge-ordinary, for payment of the arrears, with full expences, upon the above clauſe of the act of parliament. —— The expence of this ſummons is one ſhilling Sterling.

That upon this dependence, the deputy ſhall uſe arreſtment in the hands of any heritor or heritors whom he ſhall be informed to have in their hands, or to be liable in payment of as much ſtipend as will ſatisfy and pay the arrears. —— Theſe letters of arreſtment are procured for ten pence Sterling.

Thereupon a decreet of forthcoming on the proper precept, which will coſt another ſhilling, will be obtained of courſe, for arrears and expences; for there can be no competition, as the rates are preferable to any other debt.

This is the ordinary courſe of law, excludes diligence perſonally againſt the miniſters, and if diligence be raiſed on the decree of forthcoming, it muſt proceed againſt the heritor who has not paid over the bar.

If an opinion founded on very long and particular experience in proceſſes of this kind before the ſheriff-court, can be depended on, it will very ſeldom occur, that the total expence of recovering payment can amount to ten ſhillings Sterling; and it is believed, that the notorial intimation alone propoſed in the letter will frequently exceed that ſum, will almoſt in every caſe be attended by proceſſes, and in various ſhapes diſtreſs and imbarraſs the miniſters in the receipt and management of their alimentary proviſion."

A. The aſſembly cauſed read the committee's report, the above letter of the procurator, and the following new propoſal given in by Dr Webſter, which he ſaid had been juſt then put into his hands, viz.

" As the annual rates are payable out of, and are a preferable burden, not only on the ſtipends and ſalaries, but on the whole perſonal eſtate, of the contributors, it is propoſed to relieve the whole perſonal eſtate of the ſaid contributors from this heavy burden, ſo prejudicial to their creditors, ſo hurtful to their own credit while they live, and to their widows and children at their death; a burden alſo which ſubjects every humane collector to the diſagreeable neceſſity of uſing the ultimate diligence of the law in the time of great diſtreſs, againſt the very perſons for whoſe conſolation and relief this fund was originally contrived.

Let it therefore be enacted in the new ſtatute,

That on or before the day of all contributors having right to ſalaries

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or ſtipends payable out of the teinds, or ſecured on funds appropriated for the payment of the ſame, ſhall be bound to make over to the adminiſtrators of this fund, ſuch annual ſums, payable by one perſon, &c. as ſhall be equal, not only to the reſpective annual rates to which they ſhall ſubject themſelves, and to the intereſt payable upon the money borrowed by them from the fund itſelf, but alſo to ſuch additional ſum as may be neceſſary for receiving and tranſmitting the money to the collector's office at Edinburgh; transferring to the adminiſtrators the whole ſecurities which they themſelves enjoy by law for the payment of the ſaid ſtipends and ſalaries.

That the capital of the money borrowed from the fund ſhall be ſecured in manner foreſaid, upon the ann, and upon the perſonal eſtate of the defunct; with power however to the adminiſtrators to recover the ſame, if they ſhall think proper, out of the growing annuities, or money to be paid to the widow or children.

That during the vacancy of any benefice or office, the ſame right ſhall remain veſted in the adminiſtrators, to receive the ſaid annual ſums, out of the ſtipend or ſalary annexed to the vacant benefice or office, according to the rate payable by contributors.

That the annual rates ſhall be payable to the collector, at his office in Edinburgh, at the term of Candlemas ſubſequent to the year for which the ſtipend or ſalary ſhall be due.

That when the ſtipends or ſalaries are payable in grain, or in meal, the prices of which are ſubject to fluctuation, they ſhall be converted into money, at the rate of the higheſt price of the county-market for the preceding month, as appointed by act of parliament to be publiſhed. [xxxii. 632. xxxiv. 280.]

That it ſhall be competent to the contributor to redeem the ſame at the ſaid rate in caſe he ſhall think fit.

The advantages of this regulation are as follows.

1. That at whatever time the contributor may die, the arrears of his annual payment will be ſecured on his ſtipend or ſalary, and not on his perſonal eſtate.

2. It is believed, that, as matters now ſtand, any profeſſor or miniſter has a power to transfer to the adminiſtrators of this fund, the right which by this act he will be obliged to transfer; conſequently this alteration can no wiſe affect the landed, or any other intereſt.

3. That by affecting vacant ſtipends and ſalaries no eſſential hurt will be done to any individual; and were the caſe otherwiſe, it will be for a good and laudable purpoſe, and for as pious an uſe as any one which can be conceived.

4. That this will be an acquiſition to the fund at no expence to the contributors.

5. That the deſolation of poor families, involved in affliction upon the loſs of a tender huſband and father, will be prevented in a great meaſure.

6. That no diligence of law againſt perſons of ſo reſpectable a character will ever be neceſſary.

7. That it will be attended with the ſame advantages which are univerſally experienced from a ſimilar regulation eſtabliſhed for the payment of dues to hoſpitals by ſoldiers and ſeamen.

8. That ſince it is of abſolute neceſſity that the 30l. Sterling borrowed by contributors ſhall at their death be repaid, ſo by this amendment their whole perſonal eſtate will be left free to the widow and children, with this burden only.

And laſtly, That the inconveniencies at preſent ariſing from the credit given to contributors for the loan of 30l. Sterling will be totally removed."

The aſſembly, after long reaſoning, agreed to drop this article.

Reaſons of Diſſent from the judgement of the General Aſſembly, rejecting the commiſſion from the borough of Air, May 22. 1773.

DISSENTIENT, *May* 31. 1773.

1. BEcauſe the refuſal of the kirk-ſeſſion, and afterwards of the preſbytery of Air, to atteſt the commiſſion in diſpute, in ſo far as ſuch refuſal was founded on the pretence, that the perſon in whoſe favour the commiſſion was granted by the magiſtrates and town-council of Air, is not an elder lawfully ordained, was unwarrantable and illegal; it having been admitted, that he was, ſeveral years ago, lawfully ordained an elder; and it not having been alledged, that he had either voluntarily reſigned, or been depoſed from, his ſaid office: — from whence it muſt neceſſarily follow, that he remained an elder to all intents and purpoſes, and was therefore in ſo far qualified in terms of law, for a ſeat in this houſe: And that the argument

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on this head, both by the kirk-ſeſſion and preſbytery, was ſuch ſhameful quibbling, as ought not to have been liſtened to, far leſs countenanced, by any court whoſe proceedings are intended to be carried on according to law. And accordingly, of this ſome of the Reverend members of this Houſe were ſo ſenſible, that, though they voted with the majority, they acknowledged, that the kirk-ſeſſion did wrong in refuſing to atteſt this commiſſion.

2. Becauſe the refuſal of the preſbytery of Air to atteſt the ſaid commiſſion, in ſo far as ſuch refuſal proceeded upon the aſſertion, that Mr Campbell, the perſon named in the commiſſion, was not qualified according to the rules of this church, was moſt unwarrantable: it having been admitted, that he is tender and circumſpect in his walk, and not denied, that he is diligent in his attendance on the ordinances of divine inſtitution; though it may be true, that he has not, for ſome time paſt, attended regularly at his pariſh-church, but has gone at times to the churches of Dundonald and Monkton.

3. Becauſe we find, that commiſſions not atteſted by the preſbytery of the bounds, on account of a defect of evidence as to a commiſſioner's attendance on divine ordinances, have been ſuſtained by the general aſſembly: And we well remember, that the doctrine held forth by the aſſembly of laſt year, on theſe occaſions, was, That preſbyteries ought not to arrogate to themſelves inquiſitorial powers, but ought to preſume, that the perſons deſiring to be atteſted, were regular in their attendance on divine ordinances, where no legal evidence is brought to the contrary; and that one preſbytery did then receive the cenſure of the Houſe [xxxiv. 267.], for following a conduct which hath been now applauded. In the preſent caſe, the preſbytery of Air had laid before them a formal atteſtation of the fact by the magiſtrates and town-council of Air, who had daily opportunities of knowing the behaviour of Mr Campbell, who is a conſtant reſidenter, and has been, or at preſent is, an officer of conſiderable rank in this borough. This atteſtation the preſbytery were bound to regard as the only legal conſtitutional evidence in this matter. — And to this what was oppoſed? An atteſtation by the kirk-ſeſſion of Air, bearing, that Mr Campbell was lawfully ordained an elder, and that he is a reſidenter in the borough; but at ſame time telling, that for ſome time paſt he has been in uſe of going to churches of the eſtabliſhed communion other than his own, and alſo to the Seceding congregation; yet making no mention whatever, indeed for the beſt reaſon in the world, becauſe it could not, that he had been depoſed from his office as elder. This atteſtation did the preſbytery of Air, contrary, as we apprehend, to every rule of law and juſtice, ſuſtain as evidence ſufficient to outweigh the ſolemn and formal atteſtation of the magiſtrates and town-council of the borough of Air: A conduct this hardly reconcileable to the principles of honeſty, and of a tender conſcience; at leaſt not dictated by that wiſdom which is from above, which is *without partiality*, and *without hypocriſy*; — a conduct this, which, inſtead of the approbation, merited the cenſure of this Houſe.

4. Becauſe, in our opinion, the reſtraining the words, *ordinances of divine inſtitution*, to the ordinances of religion diſpenſed in one's own pariſh-church, and the reſorting, in ſupport of this reſtriction, to an obſolete act of aſſembly in 1647, is ſuch an infringement on the rights of private judgement, and ſuch a flagrant violation of that liberty of conſcience which is the birthright of every Briton, that we could not have ſuppoſed, that a Chriſtian Proteſtant aſſembly, in theſe enlightened times, could have been guilty of it.

5. Becauſe the judgement of the general aſſembly, in this matter, introduces and eſtabliſhes a doctrine illegal, unconſtitutional, and ſubverſive of the civil, as well as natural, privileges of mankind: — A doctrine which, however faſhionable it might have been in the days of a James or a Charles, had, we thought, been utterly exploded in the preſent reign. The doctrine which we mean, is this, The depriving of his privilege of a ſeat in this houſe, a perſon who was once, as is univerſally admitted, fully qualified for the ſame; and who has not been diſqualified, either by actual reſignation or depoſition. We hold it to be a ſacred principle of law, and one of the chief articles of our great charter, That no Britiſh ſubject can be deprived of his privileges by implication. And we likewiſe hold, that the argument advanced by the majority of this Houſe, namely,

namely, That, in this caſe, there was no neceſſity for a formal reſignation or depoſition, there being what amounted to a virtual reſignation or depoſition, is an argument of the moſt dangerous tendency, as it paves the way for the moſt glaring acts of oppreſſion, and totally deſtroys that ſecurity which the inhabitants of this part of the united kingdom enjoy, by the laws and conſtitutions of church and ſtate. In the preſent caſe, if the kirk-ſeſſion of Air, whoſe buſineſs it was to take cogniſance of the alledged irregularity of Mr Campbell, neglected to take the proper and legal ſteps, by formally warning him three ſeveral times to attend to his office of elder at his own pariſh-church, and then, if he had failed, by libelling and depoſing him in common form, they cannot now be allowed to take advantage of this their neglect; but it muſt, agreeably to every principle of juſtice, be conſtrued into a tacit acknowledgement, that Mr Campbell does ſtill remain an elder of this church, and, as ſuch, qualified, in terms of law, to ſit in this Houſe.

We are extremely ſorry to find ourſelves under the neceſſity of troubling the general aſſembly with the above Reaſons of Diſſent againſt their judgement of the 22d current: but a regard for our own ſacred, unalienable privileges, as well as for thoſe of our fellow-ſubjects, forbade us to be ſilent or tame ſpectators of the alarming incroachment made upon them by the aforeſaid judgement.

The Diſſenters: Meſſ. John Freebairn, at Dumbarton; James Moriſon, at Paiſley; John Gillies, D. D. at Glaſgow; Alexander Spears, at Kirkaldy; David Macgibbon, at Buchanan; and Archibald Smith, at Strathblane, Miniſters: and Alexander Belſches, advocate; Walter Coſſer, deputy-comptroller of exciſe; James Gentle, brewer in Canongate; and Joſeph Gavin, merchant in Edinburgh, Ruling Elders.

Reaſons of Diſſent, Mr Thomas Walker and others, from the judgement of the General Aſſembly May 25. 1773, in the cauſe of St Ninian's.

1. BEcauſe the aſſembly 1772, ſenſible of the doubtfulneſs of the deciſion in 1771, and aware of the great inexpediency of this ſettlement, readily admitted the ſlighteſt apology on the part of the preſbytery for not carrying the ſame into execution, and remitted to them to ſettle Mr Thomſon againſt a day fixed, upon this expreſs ſuppoſition, That a compromiſe would take place, to preſerve the intereſts of religion in this pariſh, and the pariſh itſelf to this church.

2. That as the ſaid compromiſe did not take place, and that through no default of the preſbytery, nothing could be more rigorous and unconſtitutional, than, deſpiſing the views of laſt aſſembly, now to compel, in ſuch a threatening and peremptory manner, the execution of a ſentence, which had been ſo long anxiouſly avoided, not only by the laſt, but ſeveral former aſſemblies, and that without the ſmalleſt variation of circumſtances, or any better proſpect of Mr Thomſon's uſefulneſs than ever.

3. Becauſe the general aſſemblies of this church, while under no compulſitor, in tranſlating their own members, ought to be more tender of the intereſts of religion, and the peace of the country, than, with ſo many yearly and violent ſettlements, to be diſtreſſing or imbittering the ſpirits of ſo many thouſands of the dutiful ſons of this church, and of the loyal ſubjects of his preſent Majeſty,—eſpecially in ſuch a pariſh as this of St Ninian's, ſo remarkable for their affection both to the one and the other in the worſt of times.

Laſtly, As nothing can be more wanton, than this oppreſſion of our aſſembly, and nothing more affecting to ſerious Chriſtians; ſo no time can be more improper for ſuch arbitrary meaſures, than when the attention even of this aſſembly hath been called to the amazing ſpread of the Popiſh religion over the highlands and iſlands of Scotland; that while theſe remoter parts ſwarm with the implacable enemies of our religion and liberties, we ſhould be fretting the minds, or breaking the hearts, of our boſom-friends;—baniſhing away what under God ought to be our great ſecurity, the union and ſtrength of our people; inſomuch that, over and above all the diſaffected at a greater diſtance, there are not now leſs than 150,000 in theſe low countries, as much chagrined by the deciſions of general aſſemblies, as theſe deciſions have been unconſtitutional and cruel.

The Diſſenters: Meſſ. Thomas Walker, at Dundonald; John Lundie, at Oldhamſtocks; James Moriſon, at Paiſley; John Freebairn, at Dumbarton; Henry Inglis, at Fortevoit; Charles Niſbet, at Montroſe; James Moodie, at

at Perth; Adam Roſe, at Dingwall; John Noble, at Libberton; Robert Bogie, at Logie; Robert Macculloch, at Dairſey; John Gillies, D. D. at Glaſgow; John Hamilton, at Cathcart; and Alexander Spears, at Kirkcaldy, Miniſters: and Walter Scot, merchant in Edinburgh; Walter Gibſon, ſurgeon in Leith; John Pattieſon, town-treaſurer of Paiſley; Baillie John Hoy; Convener Andrew Jobſon; Joſeph Gavine, merchant in Edinburgh; James Wilkie of Gilkerſtoun; Mr Tod, Leith; and John Mitchell, tenant in Hartriemill, Ruling Elders.

Mr URBAN, *May* 28. 1773.

THE Newtonian philoſophy makes this earth to be hollow, and its ſurface, on which all its inhabitants are placed, to be only a cruſt of ſome conſiderable thickneſs. And Dr Halley, in order to account for the variation of the magnetic needle, ſuppoſes, that there is another globe or world included in ours, at its centre, which is magnetical; and that there is a ſpace between them. This ſpace he imagines is filled with a ſubtile luminous vapour, which, iſſuing through ſome openings near the poles of our earth, produce all the appearances of the Northern lights. Theſe have, for ſeveral ages, been viſible in all the countries round the North Pole; but within theſe laſt ſixty years have ſpread themſelves further, extending very often, not only to England, but alſo to other countries ſtill further diſtant from our Pole. Whether there are the like lights round the South Pole, I have not heard; but hope we ſhall learn, when Capt. Cook, Mr Forſter, and the other gentlemen who are gone to thoſe parts of the world, return home.

Mr Ellis, in his account of Hudſon's bay, p. 172. obſerves, that theſe Northern lights ariſe there in the N. W. where they ſhine brighteſt, inſomuch that the ſhadows of objects are ſeen upon the ſnow tending to the S. E. and that it is from the N. W. they are propagated over the whole face of the ſky; and he adds, that they are ſo ſtrong there at night, when the moon does not ſhine, that one can read diſtinctly by them.

I hope, the gentlemen who are now going towards the North Pole, will be very careful to obſerve in what point of the compaſs theſe lights generally ariſe there, and whether they originally proceed chiefly from the W. or from the E. alſo; for, if we even ſuppoſe Dr Halley's theory to be true, there may be more openings to the inner globe than that one which ſeems to be to the N. W. of Hudſon's-bay. —— *I am, &c.*

J. N.

Mr Wilkes's Letter to Mr Speaker. [221.]

SIR, *Prince's Court, April* 20. 1773.

IN purſuance of your orders to the Sheriff of Middleſex, on the 7th of this month, to ſummon the repreſentatives of this county, I have received a letter from Richard Oliver, Eſq; and Sir Watkin Lewes, requiring my "attendance in the Houſe of Commons on the 26th day of this inſtant April;" with a declaration, "That the Houſe of Commons intend to proceed with the utmoſt ſeverity againſt ſuch of their members as ſhall then neglect to attend the ſervice of the Houſe."

The two gentlemen, Sir, as well as every man of ſenſe and principle in the kingdom, could not entertain a doubt, that the legal members for Middleſex were Mr Glynn and myſelf, the perſons who were choſen into parliament by a majority of the freeholders. The ſummonſes in conſequence iſſued to us by their expreſs directions. The ſentiments, however, of the Houſe of Commons appear to me very different, and not leſs in direct oppoſition to every idea of juſtice, than to the rights of the people. It is too evident, they mean a continuation of their former injuries to the county of Middleſex, and the nation at large, by their ſtill ſuffering Mr Luttrell to ſit in parliament, the pretended repreſentative of freeholders who voted againſt him. In this ſpirit of injuſtice they intended the ſummons ſhould iſſue to a gentleman who has no pretence to a ſeat in the Houſe of Commons, but finds his uſurpation ſupported by their fraud and violence.

I have not been remiſs, Sir, on this occaſion, in duty to my worthy conſtituents, and to my country. I neglected no opportunity of demanding the ſeat to which I was ſo honourably choſen; nor have I failed to proteſt frequently, both to the parliament and nation, againſt this injuſtice done to the freeholders of the county of Middleſex, as being ſuffered to be repreſented only in part by Mr Glynn, although with the higheſt reputation to himſelf, and the moſt eſſential benefit to the public. On the 27th of January 1769, I demanded in perſon, at the bar of the Houſe of Commons, to be admitted and ſworn in, as one of the knights of the ſhire for this county. In a letter to you, Sir, as Speaker, on the 20th

20th of March 1771 [xxxiii. 236.], I declared, "In the name of the freeholders of Middlesex, I again demand my seat in parliament, having the honour of being freely chosen, by a very great majority, one of the representatives for the said county. I am ready to take the oaths prescribed by law, and to give in my qualification as knight of the shire." I now to you, Sir, as Speaker, renew the same claim in the strongest manner, for the injured people of England, and my constituents, the freeholders of the county of Middlesex. I will never cease to support with spirit the clear right I derive from them by all constitutional modes of redress, till every the most minute trace of the late flagitious proceedings be utterly done away, and the guilt fully expiated.

The people, Sir, are anxious that the House should embrace the opportunity which now naturally offers, of reviewing their conduct, of doing a necessary piece of justice, by rescinding that arbitrary resolution of May 8. 1769, which virtually repeals the *Great Charter* and the *Bill of Rights* in the important point of the freedom of election, "That Henry Lawes Luttrel, Esq; is *duly elected* a knight of the shire for the county of Middlesex." While this resolution remains in the journals of the House, I assert, that the House of Commons, in the person of one man illegally deprived of his seat in parliament, have disfranchised all the people of England, and in the person of another have assumed to themselves the right of nominating to any county, city, or borough, in defiance of the legal electors. The right of election is in the people, which they hold absolutely independent of the House of Commons, who are only the guardians of that, and every other less sacred, right. The present majority have betrayed their trust, and given up those invaluable privileges which they were chosen to defend and protect. Our ancestors held the freedom of election, subject only to the law of the land, to be of the essence, as well as the nobler part, of the franchise. Their posterity have been robbed of this first, this distinguishing, and favourite honour of Englishmen, by a venal senate — hitherto with impunity.

It is scarcely possible to imagine a precedent more fatal to the free constitution of any state, or more alarming to the members themselves, who, indulging in supine ease and luxury, amid the cries of the starving poor, unfeeling as unrepenting, now glory in the rich spoils of this ignoble victory over their bleeding country, and perhaps their posterity. I wish to awaken them by a sense of their own danger, since they are deaf to the voice of truth and liberty. Should the resolution I have mentioned not be rescinded, the precedent is at hand to justify the future violence of any minion or minister against themselves, on the slightest act of disobedience or neglect. It is not necessary to call in a jury of our countrymen to try the fact on oath. A complaisant and corrupt majority may be induced, after a mock examination of two or three witnesses not sworn, to vote any man obnoxious to a despotic court or ministry, guilty of a libel, even against a profligate Peer, to expel him the House, and adopt in his room some forward slave of power, who will court and kiss the base chains, forged by a tyrant, without any appeal having been made by the party pretending to be aggrieved by the libel either to the laws of the land or of honour. Such a precedent is now on record, the most admired page in the thirty folio volumes of the journals, and engraven on the cankered hearts of our modern courtiers and ministers. [xxxi. 229.]

The reverence I have for parliaments, Sir, has induced me to state the mischiefs with which we are threatened, should the resolution not be rescinded. By the servile and iniquitous conduct of the present House of Commons, the regard of the people to that part of our constitution is visibly weakened. The majority of the members are abhorred as the instruments of ministerial tyranny, not revered as the protectors of the rights of the nation. They are become odious as well as criminal; for, from the meanest and most interested motives, they have totally subverted the constitution, and effected an absolute dissolution of that fair and equal system of power, by which we have hitherto been, and alone can be legally governed. They have fallen into the lowest state of humiliation and contempt. If however they persevere in the violation of our fundamental rights, if they continue actuated by the same spirit of usurpation and lawless violence, one hope still remains; the wisdom and virtue of a future independent parliament, which cannot fail soon to give vigour and success to the honest efforts of all real patriots for the restoration of the constitution, and

to pour juſt vengeance on their guilty predeceſſors.

I am, Sir, your moſt humble ſervant,

JOHN WILKES.

Rt Hon. Sir Fletcher Norton, Speaker of the Houſe of Commons.

As ſoon as Lord North came to the houſe of Commons on Wedneſday, April 21. the Speaker roſe, and acquainted the Houſe, that he had received a letter from the Sheriffs of Middleſex, ſigned *Richard Oliver*, and *Watkin Lewes*, in anſwer to a circular letter he had written to them by order of the Houſe; that he had the purport of their anſwer in a note, which he had in his hand, which was, "That they had ſummoned John Wilkes, and John Glynn, Eſq; as knights of the ſhire for the county of Middleſex;" that he would read it, if the Houſe pleaſed, but that he imagined there was no occaſion for ſo doing, as it had been already very *faithfully* copied in all the newspapers [221.].—At the inſtant the Speaker had done, his Lordſhip called for the order of the day; and no perſon riſing to ſpeak on either ſide, no further notice was taken of the affair.

A DREAM.

I Confeſs to you, Mr Printer, that I always dream when I get drunk, and that I got very drunk laſt night in the old cauſe. Ah, did they all ſtand out like me, we could do what we pleaſed in that raſcally Houſe of Commons. Hearing, Sir, that our immortal and everlaſting Patriot was to go to the Houſe on Monday next [221.], I was exceedingly overjoyed, and ſo thought I could not do leſs than go to drink porter for the good of the nation.

Well, I drank at leaſt a *quant. ſuff.* as my doctor ſays, and went to bed; and lo! a Dream. I dreamed, Sir, that the great Monday was arrived; and that I myſelf, with many others, was at the door of the Houſe of Commons, to be ready to hoop and to hollo, in order that they might ſee that our Patriot went to take his ſeat in the Houſe "amidſt the acclamations of the people." Well, at laſt he arrived; and methought he walked up to the door with great boldneſs. The ſcoundrel door-keeper, however, had the inconſcionable impudence to ſtop him. "Sirrah! (ſays he to our Patriot) who are you?"

"Who am *I!* (returned our everlaſting Patriot, in deep dudgeon) Who am *I!* Why, ſlave, varlet, caitiff, thou tyrannous ſervant of tyrants, knoweſt thou me not? Know, Sirrah, that I am the greateſt man that ever was or ever will be, damme.—Am I not, men of England?" ſaid he, turning to us poor rogues who were ſtanding around him.

Here we, to be ſure, could do no leſs than—*Huzza! Wilkes for ever!*

He goes on,—"Know, Sirrah, that I am a Patriot, greater than Ruſſell, Hampden, Marvell, or Sidney; and that I have bled for my country at every pore; ay, and am ready to bleed again—if they would pay me for it. In ſhort, Sir, to ſum up all in a word, and to petrify you with fear, terror, and aſtoniſhment at once; know, varlet, my name is *John Wilkes!* Hear that and tremble. And I am come to this infamous Houſe, becauſe I want to get into it. I love infamous places, and I always loved infamous places, and it will be d——d odd unleſs I always *will* love infamous places. Therefore, knave, open your door; for though the people in the inſide all are a parcel of raſcals, I long to make one of them."

"I don't doubt it in the leaſt (replied the door-keeper); but ſtill that won't make me open the door.—A word in your ear, Sir. Do you know what the ſubject of debate is to be this day?"

"No."

"Why then I'll tell you. It is to be upon *embezzlements*. Certain knaves, who made too free with money which did not belong to them, are to be called to account for it. Eh! Mr Wilkes, are you not afraid to enter, in caſe they ſhould take it in their heads to ſtare at you? *Embezzlement*, you know, eh!"

"Slave" (retorted our everlaſting Patriot, in great wrath) "villain, knave, this to *me?*"

Upon which, ſeeing our Patriot in this villanous dilemma, we interpoſed, as to be ſure the *People* ought to do, in the defence of their country. And as the cauſe was for Liberty too, we thought we could not do leſs (ſince the door-keeper was ſo ſaucy) than give Mr Wilkes the liberty to enter. So, uniting ourſelves, we ſet the door open in a trice; and the everlaſting Patriot entered in the midſt of ſhouts.

Thus far, methought, all went on ſwimmingly; and ſeeing we had been ſo ſucceſsful in the beginning, I thought it neceſſary to ſee the end of it. In I went, and found myſelf in the gallery. I was impatient for the ſequel; when, lo! our Patriot walked boldly in among them, and

and placed himſelf in the lap of Colonel Luttrel. "Not ſo free neither," ſaid the Colonel, and ſhoved the immortal Patriot from himſelf over againſt another gentleman. This gentleman ſhoved him againſt another, and this other ſent him to the other ſide, and from the other ſide he was ſent to this again — juſt like a foot-ball. Yes, Mr Printer, the immortal and everlaſting Patriot was pelted about from member to member, from ſeat to ſeat, from county to county, with as little mercy as if he was a rotten aple, or a bad halfpenny. Sir Fletcher threw the huge ſtatute-books at him; Lord North pelted him with the treaſury-accounts, which were lying upon the table; Charles Fox took a handful of dice out of his pocket, and rattled them about his ears; Sir Gilbert Elliot pricked him with the Scotch thiſtle; the bloody Barrington diverted himſelf with pinking the poor Patriot's poſteriors; Wedderburne and Mungo thundered againſt him with the thirty volumes of Journals; and, in ſhort, every man was at him in one way or another, till he ran the gantlet of the Houſe over and over. Ah! Mr Printer, had you ſeen our poor and everlaſting Patriot when all was over: — by St George! he was like a dried herring, or a dead Frenchman. He hung together, you would have thought, like a parcel of rags; and he looked as if you could have blown him away into atoms. A motion was then made, that he be carried home upon a porter's knot, and laid in ſome bed, to recover at his eaſe; which paſſed *nem. con.* — I could hold no longer. — Indeed, I thought I held out very well hitherto. — However, this rouſed me; I ſtarted up, and was brandiſhing about my hands to prepare myſelf for the battle, when I hit my knuckles with a confounded rap againſt the bed-poſt, and awaked. I opened my eyes, and lo! it was a dream.

April 24. *A very great Patriot.*

Mr URBAN, *May* 1773.

IN the moſt northern part of Scotland, called Lord Reay's country, not far from Tongue, and near the head of the river which runs into the North ſea at Loch Eribol, is the remains of a ſtone tower, which I apprehend to be a Druidic work, and to be the greateſt piece of antiquity in this iſland. It is ſurpriſing that it is ſo little known even to the natives of that country: I don't remember to have ever ſeen it mentioned in any book whatever, nor do I recollect whether Pennant has received any information concerning it. This tower is called, by the neighbouring inhabitants, the *Dune of Dornadilla*. It is of a circular form, and now nearly reſembling the fruſtum of a cone: whether, when perfect, it terminated in a point, I cannot pretend to gueſs; but it ſeems to have been formerly higher, by the rubbiſh which lies round it. It is built of ſtone without cement, and I take it to be between twenty and thirty feet high ſtill. The entrance is by a very low and narrow door, to paſs through which one is obliged to ſtoop much; but, perhaps, the ground may have been raiſed ſince the firſt erection.

When one is got in, and placed in the centre, it is open over head. All round the ſides of the walls are ranged ſtone ſhelves, one above another, like the ſhelves in a circular beaufait, reaching from near the bottom to the top: the ſtones which compoſe theſe ſhelves are ſupported chiefly by the ſtones which form the walls, and which project all round juſt in that place where the ſhelves are, and in no others: each of the ſhelves is ſeparated into ſeveral diviſions, as in a book-caſe. There is ſome remains of an awkward ſtair-caſe.

What uſe the ſhelves could be applied to, I cannot conceive. It could not be of any military uſe, from its ſituation at the bottom of a ſloping hill, which wholly commands it. The moſt learned among the inhabitants, ſuch as the gentry and the clergy, who all ſpeak the Iriſh language, could give no information or tradition concerning its uſe, or the origin and meaning of its name. But ſome years ſince I happened, at an auction of books in London, to look into a French book, containing Gauliſh antiquities; and there I ſaw a print of the remains of a Druidic temple in France, which greatly reſembles the tower I am ſpeaking of, having like ſhelves in it: and, reading a late pamphlet, *On the antiquity of the Iriſh language*, I think I can partly trace the origin of the name *Dornadilla*. At p. 24. the author ſays, that *dorn* means, "a round ſtone," ſo that *abdorn* would mean, "the round ſtone of the prieſts;" *na* is "of;" and *Di* is "God:" at p. 45. he ſays, in the laſt line, *ulla* means "a place of devotion:" ſo that *Dor-na-Di-ulla* will ſignify "the round-ſtone place of the worſhip of God;" or, perhaps, it might allude to ſome round ſtone preſerved within as a ſacred emblem of divinity.

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To

To a late Viceroy of Ireland. [29.]

THE toilsome pageantry of ſtate laid by,
At length our Albion greets your longing eye;
Endear'd by abſence, and from contraſt bright,
She beams freſh beauties on your rapt'ur'd ſight.
Not ſo lerne charm'd: tho' there diſplay'd,
Ambitious palm, the Viceroy's proud parade:
For kings and king-like deputies have known,
Chagrin can dim the ſplendors of a throne.
Yet why chagrin? that cloud muſt ceaſe t' obſcure,
If all our acts are virtuous, juſt, and pure.
Praiſe felt at heart, which th' upright only know,
No breath can rob us of, no breath beſtow.
Oft have miſjudging crouds with held the meed,
Tho' big with public good the ſtateſman's deed:
Yet, if applauſive conſcience ſmiles within,
The patriot laughs at faction's loudeſt din;
His nobleſt triumph on himſelf depends,
By foes unſullied, unimprov'd by friends;
A Pæan's burſt, too weak t' enhance his joy,
A hiſs too impotent his peace t' annoy.
Townſhend has weigh'd them both, and found them vain:
Tho' Ireland murmurs, yet he feels no pain;
Blameleſs of heart he quits a thankleſs land,
And meets a plaudit from his maſter's hand.
Yet tho' his prince applauds, a tranſient care,
Muſt touch his breaſt, and prove the hero there;
How ſeldom, in this dreary vale of tears,
Joy unalloy'd with bitterneſs appears!
Imagin'd wrongs provok'd the bold appeal,
And blood alone th' ideal wound muſt heal.
Shall Gothic cuſtom, in an age refin'd,
With its ſtern edicts ſway the paſſive mind?
O may our laws this tyrant-form withſtand,
And from a peſt ſo fatal purge the land.
Townſhend, tho' prompt to fight when glory calls,
To fix the ſtandard on Canadian walls,
Yet pauſes here; and fain his foe would meet
On Chriſtian terms, and calm his rank'ling heat;
But when pacific arts are tried in vain,
With cool diſpaſſion'd courage ſeeks the plain;
To God commits th' event without a dread,
Whoſe ſhield in battle cover'd oft his head.
See! Britain's genius hovers o'er his care,
And bids th' noxious bullet whiz in air:
He lives, he lives unhurt, to Gallia's coaſt
The tidings ſpeed her ſorrow and our boaſt;
The brave intrepid conqu'ror of Quebec
Lives, if occaſion calls, her power to check.
The combat o'er, the hero feels the wound
That brings his vanquiſh'd rival to the ground;
He wiſhes oft his ball had harmleſs ſped,
Nor, to ſoothe idol-honour, blood been ſhed.
Courage with candour temper'd ſo ſerene,
Applaud, Ierne, and forego your ſpleen;
Henceforth with England join in one acclaim,
"May Britain's foes and Townſhend's be the ſame."

C. L.

Inſcription on Miſs Drummond's monument.

TO ABIGAIL DRUMMOND, daughter of Robert Archbiſhop of York, who lived, alas! only ſixteen years, this laſt duty is paid, by her afflicted parent.

HERE ſleeps, what once was beauty, once was grace,
Grace that with tenderneſs and ſenſe combin'd
To form that harmony of ſoul and face,
Where beauty ſhines the mirror of the mind.

Such was the maid, who in the bloom of youth,
In virgin innocence, in Nature's pride,
Bleſs'd with each art that owes its charm to truth,
Sunk in her father's fond embrace — and died

He weeps! — O venerate the holy tear!
Faith lends her aid to bear Affliction's load;
The *father* mourns his *child* upon her bier,
The *Chriſtian* yield's an *angel* to his God.

How ſoon, alas! their boſoms bleed again!
See CHARLOTTE in the dawn of life expire!
Another daughter loſt renews their pain,
Another angel joins the heavenly choir.

With ſofteſt ſmiles of tenderneſs and love,
She late could ſoothe a father's manly breaſt,
And all a mother's tender fondneſs move,
Then ſmil'd a fond farewell, and dropt to reſt.

Eſcap'd from preſent ills, from future care,
And many a pang that waits us here below,
She's call'd thus early to yon brighter ſphere —
With native ſweetneſs ſmiles a cherub now.

On a late MARRIAGE.

Inſcrib'd to H——— R———, Eſq;

Omnia vincit amor.

WHILE tinſel'd toys or wealth the great purſue,
Who think all happineſs conſiſts in ſhew,
You bravely from the beaten track depart,
And ſcorn to give your hand without your heart.

Regardleſs of the "whiſtling of a name,"
Love your incitement, virtue all your aim,
You rightly judge, (on worth not wealth intent),
True happineſs conſiſts in true content,
And ſay, while you parade and pomp reſign,
"Be modeſt worth and blooming beauty mine."

Angels applaud, — and who but moſt approve?
Princes thy pattern, and thy motive LOVE.

March 1773. HYMEN.

On Dr Buchan's Domeſtic Medicine. [xxxiv. 558.]

CHAIN'D by the hands of his own ſordid ſons,
Long pin'd the Genius of the Healing power;
Health to the man who durſt the fetters break,
Peace to his ſoul, and comfort to his life.

Him ſhall the Science, not the Trade exalt,
Apollo's ſelf ſhall from his throne deſcend,
Fair-blooming Health and Beauty in his train,
And with a *civic crown* adorn his brow.

To PITY.

HAil lovely pow'r! whoſe boſom heaves the ſigh,
When Fancy paints the ſcene of deep diſtreſs;
Whoſe tears ſpontaneous chryſtallize the eye,
When rigid Fate denies the power to bleſs.

Not all the ſweets Arabia's gales convey
From flow'ry meads, can with that ſigh compare;
Not dew-drops glitt'ring in the morning ray,
Seem half ſo beauteous as that falling tear.

Deveid of fear the fawns around thee play;
Emblem of peace the dove before thee flies;
No blood-ſtain'd traces mark thy guiltleſs ſway,
Beneath thy feet no hapleſs inſect dies.

Come, lovely pow'r! and range the meads with me,
To ſpring the partridge from the guileful foe;
From ſtrength'ning ſnares the ſtruggling bird to free,
And ſtop the hand prepar'd to give the blow.

And when the air with heat meridian glows,
And Nature droops beneath the conquering gleam;
Let us, ſlow wand'ring where the current flows,
Save ſinking flies that float along the ſtream.

Or turn to nobler, greater taſks, thy care;
To me thy ſympathetic gifts impart;
Teach me in Friendſhip's griefs to bear a ſhare,
And juſtly boaſt the generous feeling heart.

Teach me to ſoothe the helpleſs orphan's grief,
With timely aid the widow's woes aſſuage;
To Miſery's moving cry to yield relief,
And be the ſure reſource of drooping Age.

So when the genial ſpring of life ſhall fade,
And ſinking nature owns the dread decay,
Some ſoul congenial then may lend its aid,
And gild the cloſe of life's eventful day.

VERNAL ODE.

SUnny beams now gaily riſing,
Riſe, my ſoul, in thanks and praiſe;
Largely to him ſacrificing,
Who has given length of days.

Flowing meadows ſweets diffuſing,
Languiſh for the eye of day;
And the northern blaſt accuſing,
Sicken at the hateful ray.

On the barren Arctic flying,
Baleful tyrant, turn thy wrath:
See the virgin-bloſſoms dying,
How they ſtrew thy cruel path.

Sweeteſt ſoul-inſpiring ſeaſon,
Nature's laugh, and Nature's ſong,
Vegetation, Senſe, and Reaſon,
Round thee all enamour'd throng.

Like a maiden, ſhy and fearful,
Hidden thou by turns art ſeen;
Frowneſt now, and now art chearful:
Fair Creation's fickle Queen.

Winter's wither'd clutches hold thee,
Doating on thy youthful charms:
Summer, longing to infold thee,
Rolls thee to his ardent arms.

How his looks improve thy graces!
Turn'd to him thy beauties glow;
Shun the Winter's cold embraces,
Winter, Bloom and Beauty's foe.

See the primroſe ſoftly ſhowing,
Sheds the milk-white drops around;
Vi'lets too, and cowſlips blowing,
Scent the air, and the paint ground.

Wood-larks warble in the valley,
O'er the rocks ſwift rivers fall,
Breezes thro' the foreſt ſally:
All is ſpring, and new is all.

Thro' the tufty green-wood bounding,
Hark, the ſound of love we hear!
And a thouſand notes reſounding,
Hail the morning of the year.

Come, forſake the gloomy city;
Seek the fields and ſhining plains:
Town-amuſements ſcorn and pity,
Joy that in the ſequel pains.

Shine, ye gilded lamps and luſtres,
Riſe your columns, ſwell your domes;
To bedeck the fair in cluſters,
Jewels, quit your Indian homes.

What is all this ſcene of glory
To the wonders of the ſkies?
Loftieſt buildings ſink before ye,
Where the rocks and mountains riſe.

Pride of artificial beauty,
Cumbrous pomp of vain parade,
Fly no more the dreſſer's duty,
Art's ſophiſticated aid.

Gain, ye nymphs, the hue of nature;
Gentle exerciſe and air
Will improve your health and ſtature,
Make you firm as well as fair.

Scenes of verdure animating,
Sun-bright glow of rural joys;
Calm delights and unabating,
That the growth of care deſtroys.

Pour your fineſt faſcination
On the heart of wayward man;
Make him feel his paſt relation
To creation's happy plan.

Where the grove's divinely planted,
Earth's new-riſen monarch lay,
Saw provided all he wanted,
And ſpent in ſocial bliſs the day.

III.

HISTORICAL AFFAIRS.

TURKY.

"*Conſtantinople, April* 2. Intelligence has juſt arrived here from the Black ſea, that the Ruſſian fleet is very numerous there, and that they compel every Turkiſh veſſel they meet with to pay them a kind of tribute, or cuſtom as they term it, for liberty to ſail in a ſea belonging to her Imperial Majeſty of Ruſſia. Some ſhips which refuſed to pay, they have ſeized and confiſcated. The Porte, in conſequence of theſe advices, has given orders for the fleet of ſhips and gallies which now lie in the harbour of Conſtantinople, to ſail immediately to the Black ſea; but whether they are to enter on action, is not yet known."

"*Conſtantinople, March* 27. His Sublime Highneſs and the whole divan are now certain that the Emperor of Germany means to aſſiſt the Empreſs of Ruſſia in the renewed war againſt the Turks, and have given notice to the Auſtrian ambaſſador at the Porte to depart the Ottoman dominions in thirty days, on pain of perpetual impriſonment; which is conferring a great favour on that ambaſſador, as it is the almoſt immutable cuſtom of the Turks to confine the miniſters of any power they mean or expect to war with."

"*Conſtantinople, April* 3. We are aſſured, that Ali Bey, after having taken Jaffa and Jeruſalem, began his march with a powerful army for Egypt, with an intention of rendering himſelf alſo maſter of Cairo."

"*London, May* 7. By letters from Cairo we learn, that Ali Bey has juſt given a proof of his proficiency in the art of financeering, which outdoes all that any of the three northern allies have given. He has obliged the Jews to pay him a conſiderable ſum, one half of which he told them was in part of intereſt and indemnification, and for non-enjoyment of the great ſums their anceſtors borrowed, and feloniouſly carried off, from the ancient Egyptians [xxi. 112.]; and the other half is part of the intereſts due upon the fine not paid, for the murder of Jeſus Chriſt. We recommend this tranſaction to the ſerious conſideration of the courts of Vienna, Peterſburg, and Berlin, and hope they will depute a ſolemn embaſſy to Ali Bey to congratulate him on the great improvement he has made in the art of appropriating our neighbour's goods. The ſuperiority of Ali Bey over his three rivals is evident. For, firſt, he does not prove his claims by antiquated records of diſputable authority, but by books known and allowed to be authentic by the Jews themſelves. In the next place his claims are inexhauſtible; for, ſetting the original debt at no more than the purchaſe-money of the legitimate eſtate of the Houſe of Brandenburg, the accumulated intereſt ariſing thereon will make ſuch an enormous ſum, that, according to Dr Price's calculations, a maſs of gold equal to the whole body of the earth would not diſcharge it."

POLAND.

"*Frontiers of Poland, April* 7. The dietine of Wilkomirz was held in much diſorder. The Nobles were divided into two factions, and diſputed with their drawn ſabres. There was ſome bloodſhed; and it was very near being a general maſſacre; for the two parties ſeized their muſkets, and pointed them one againſt the other."

"*Warſaw, April* 24. Several of the ſecond dietines, held in conſequence of new letters of convocation in thoſe diſtricts where the firſt had broken up ineffectually, have ſucceeded; but in many other places the gentlemen, after refuſing to aſſemble, made their proteſts, notwithſtanding the Grods were forbid to receive them. Manifeſtoes have appeared in ſeveral palatinates; that for the palatinate of Kiovia is conceived nearly in the following terms. —— "As the calamities in which our country is involved are daily augmented, and as no liberty is left for free deliberation, either at the place of election, or for the perſons that ſhall be choſen, the republic being over-run with foreign troops, the citizens aſſembled for the election of nuncios declined naming any, as they would not expoſe any gentleman that ſhould be choſen to the hard taſk of being forced to accelerate and confirm the ruin of his country. The ſtability of the entire poſſeſſion of the republic is founded on ſolemn treaties, ſworn to by the Auguſt Houſe of Auſtria, and the Kings of Hungary, in which it has been declared, that they would never form any pretenſion to any diſtrict of Poland; —on treaties with Ruſſia, and on the declaration of her preſent Imperial Majeſty of Ruſſia, given in 1764, in which ſhe

declares, that ſhe never will form any pretenſions either on Poliſh Ruſſia or Lithuania; — on treaties made and renewed with the King of Pruſſia, in which the reſpective domains have been invariably determined, on the declaration of the grandfather of the King of Pruſſia in 1701, and on that of his preſent Majeſty in 1764, in which he aſſures, that he will never make any claim on Poliſh Pruſſia. — On theſe ſacred ties we had reaſon to hope, that the above three ſovereigns, calling to mind the treaties of their predeceſſors, and their own declarations, would not undertake any thing againſt the intereſt of the republic, nor give its inhabitants any cauſe for complaint. In conſequence of the above, as we would not permit the ruin, diſmemberment, or any change in our form of government, we formally oppoſe the nomination of a marſhal of the diet, and the elections of nuncios," &c. — Signed by Michael Stecki, territorial judge of Zeitomerze, and by ſeveral others."

"*Warſaw, May* 7. The proceedings of the diet and dietines are ſtill nothing but confuſion and bloodſhed; ſo many different opinions reign, that it ſeems almoſt improbable any thing of real conſequence can be done."

"*Warſaw, May* 1. A copy has appeared here of the manifeſto which the Lithuanian nuncio M. Reytan laid before the Grod of Warſaw, the 21ſt of April, and was ſigned by M. Reytan and M. Korſack, both nuncios of Novogrod; the ſubſtance of which is as follows. —— "That they proteſt before the King and the whole Republic, that the laws of the nation have been broken through, that the nuncios were deprived of their freedom of action and ſpeech at the diet, and their characters unworthily traduced by Count Poninſki, who having uſurped the office of Marſhal of the Diet, has not ſcrupled to arreſt the nuncios of Novogrod for attempting to hinder him: That they aſſerted upon the rights of the Republic, particularly thoſe appointed in 1669, where the freedom of ſpeech is in the ſtrongeſt manner confirmed to the nuncios: That they moreover proteſted againſt the abuſing their laws and freedom; and that they would not agree to any thing done at the diet till it could be held free, and to the advantage of their country."

"*Warſaw, May* 5. The King aſſiſts daily at the deliberations of the diet, which continues to be held very private. The divided opinions of thoſe who compoſe it cauſe many warm debates, and not a little confuſion; but the miniſters of the allied powers ſeem not to diſturb themſelves much about it, as they are ſure (let what will be the reſult) of carrying their point. — As the nuncios have nothing to do but to approve of the articles propoſed by the courts of Vienna, Peterſburg, and Berlin, without making the leaſt alteration, they have requeſted of the reſpective miniſters of thoſe courts an expreſs order in writing to conſent to all that is propoſed, that they may have ſomething to juſtify their conduct to thoſe whoſe repreſentatives they are."

"*Warſaw, April* 24. The 21ſt inſtant, two plenipotentiaries were ſent to let his Majeſty know, that a confederacy was formed under Count Poninſki, as Marſhal, and under Prince Radzivil, Marſhal of Lithuania, and at the ſame time to aſk his Majeſty to enter into it himſelf. The King anſwered them by the Chancellor of the Crown, "That he muſt deliberate with his council on the affair."

The next day the King ordered the Chancellor to declare openly at court in his name, "That as the three Allied Powers had not, without ſome threats, deſired a confederacy, and the nation had joined themſelves to it, his Majeſty gave his approbation."

After this the Marſhals of the Confederacy kiſſed his Majeſty's hand. The reaſon why the Allied Powers inſiſted ſo ſtrongly on the confederacy is, that now every thing at the diet will be determined by a majority of voices. There are already 110 nuncios here.

Mr Reytan, nuncio of Novogrod, ſtill remains ſtedfaſt to his firſt reſolution, of not entering into the confederacy, notwithſtanding the many ſevere threats he receives. He did not leave the nuncios chamber till he had heard that his Majeſty had joined the confederacy.

Mr Reytan is, notwithſtanding this, in high eſteem with every one, even the King and all the foreign miniſters; and his Majeſty has aſſured him, "he need fear nothing, and that he may either ſtay here, or return home, which he likes beſt;" and that his effects, by the King's orders, are ſecure from ſequeſtration."

"*Warſaw, April* 27. The Pope's nuncio hath delivered to the King a brief from his Holineſs, by which the Sove-

reign

reign Pontiff exhorts his Majeſty to take care that nothing be eſtabliſhed prejudicial to the Catholic religion; and recommends moderation and patience to him in the preſent circumſtances of affairs. — As the act of confederacy muſt, according to the laws, be depoſited in the Grod, that formality took place this day. — A queſtion had ariſen relative to fixing the duration of the confederacy; but M. Benoit, the Pruſſian miniſter, declared yeſterday, that it muſt laſt as long as circumſtances ſhall require. — As this confederacy is formed under the protection of three neighbouring powers, every thing is carried on in concert with their miniſters; and, we hope, by this means, the repoſe of this kingdom will be reeſtabliſhed, and its limits aſcertained."

"*Warſaw, April* 28. The King ſigned the act of confederacy the 22d inſtant; and twenty-four hours after Prince Czartoriſki, Grand Chancellor of Lithuania, and Prince Lubomirſki, Grand Marſhal, with twenty-four ſenators, followed his Majeſty's example."

"*Frontiers of Poland, April* 12. The Engliſh conſul at Dantzick has communicated to two deputies of the magiſtracy the letters which he had lately received; and at the ſame time informed them, that in negotiating with him, they were not to look on themſelves as treating with the court of Berlin, but as an Engliſh miniſter, authoriſed alſo by the King of Pruſſia, to whom they were deſired to deliver all papers neceſſary to make an eſtimate of the rights of the city. In conſequence of this, the above magiſtrates have propoſed to the three orders of the ſtate, to appoint a ſecret committee to confer with the Engliſh conſul."

"*Dantzick, April* 20. The laſt letters received by our magiſtracy from Peterſburg adviſe, that the court of Ruſſia having digeſted the inſtructions of Count Golowkin, by which he is to examine into our claim to the freedom of our port and commerce, has received orders to ſet out to this place.—Great numbers of Pruſſians arrive here daily. Some have taken poſſeſſion of the iſland of Holm, and a garriſon is placed in it. What, however, adds to our affliction is, that the Pruſſian claims to the tolls on the Viſtula, which were ſuſpended, are reeſtabliſhed. We cannot tell to what to attribute this change, except it was the refuſal of our magiſtracy to accept the offers made them by the Engliſh conſul, to alienate the court of Berlin, which has revived all its former pretenſions."

"*Frontiers of Poland, April* 21. The Pruſſian toll at Dantzick, which was ſuſpended for nine days paſt, is now again demanded; and even the ſhips which were then ſuffered to go free are now obliged to pay it. The orders for this proceeding came from Berlin the 17th inſtant; the reaſons for it are not yet known."

"*London, May* 1. A letter from the Hague ſays, "Three members of the ſenate, from the republic of Dantzick, are arrived here, in order to preſent a memorial of all their grievances before the whole diplomatic body, deſiring to be protected and relieved from the Pruſſian yoke. The contents are thus related. — "Every one muſt confeſs, that that republic is the moſt ſure and plentiful country for corn in Europe. Dantzick has been always free to, and open, without diſtinction, for all the potentates wanting that commodity; it is therefore the more neceſſary for mankind, that it ſhould be kept under the ſame freedom and regulation as it was by the police of the magiſtrates of that trading place; for all the nations who may be in want of that prime commodity muſt be ſtarved, or extorted on, by the abſolute and tyrannical Pruſſian government, who will, by a heavy tax upon it, raiſe the price to ſo great a degree, that it will be impoſſible, in future, for the merchants to trade, and to relieve the poor people." — If theſe gentlemen have not any hopes of ſucceſs there, they are to go to England and France, when the Poliſh miniſters will preſent them to the reſpective courts; all the Dutch merchants are to join with them, who will give an account of the quantity of corn, in the ſpace of forty years, that other countries have been ſupplied with, none being more able to certify than the Dutch, as they have filled their warehouſes and granaries from that place, and afterwards exported it to every country as they wanted it."

"*Hague, May* 3. We hear that his Pruſſian Majeſty, informed of the contents of the meſſage of the Dantzick magiſtrates to Holland, has ſent to his ambaſſador a memorial in anſwer, which has been communicated to the diplomatic body, and to the aſſembly of the general ſtates. It repreſents, That having a right to a great part of the Poliſh kingdom,

dom, he ſhould have been choſen protector of Dantzick, in preference to the King of Poland, who being elective, was conſequently a ſtranger to a kingdom conferred on him by the electors. His Pruſſian Majeſty further declares, That if the republic of Dantzick are willing to take him for a protector, he is ready to ſettle with them in a ſatisfactory manner. The magiſtrates diſagree with him upon that point, and inſiſt on remaining as they have been ſince the eſtabliſhment of the kingdom of Poland, under the Poliſh King's protection."

"*Dantzick, April* 27. The Pruſſian reſident has delivered the following memorial to the magiſtrate of this place.—His Pruſſian Majeſty having made the following three (ſuburbs of Dantzick) royal towns, viz. Schiedlitz, Stolzenberg, and Sehtland, cannot ſuffer the town of Dantzick to take duties on the merchandiſes which the inhabitants of thoſe towns buy of the Dantzickers. His Majeſty could demand a reſtitution to be made of all the duties paid by thoſe inhabitants ſince the firſt eſtabliſhment of the exciſe; but guided by that moderation which governs all his actions, he limits his demands to the laſt twenty years; in conſequence of which, the town of Dantzick is to pay him 500,000 florins, being the amount of the duties paid from 1753 to 1773, according to an exact calculation made on oath by thoſe inhabitants."

Russia.

"*Peterſburg, April* 16. Advices from Aſtracan make mention of an event which is of great detriment to the Ruſſian empire, it being nothing leſs than the removal of a whole people, of which we have not had an inſtance ſince that famous one of the Goths and Vandals.—The Turgut, a Kalmuck tribe, who, ever ſince laſt century, have inhabited the Aſtracan *Steppe* (the Ruſſians call a woody unbuilt large tract of land *ſteppe*) between Aſtracan and Saratow, under the Ruſſian government, have lately removed from thence, with their wives, children, and all their effects, through the Orenburgian government and the Steppe of the Kirgis Kaiſaki, to the country called *Dſungoria*, which lies between the Steppe of the Kirgis Kaiſaki, Siberia, China, and the Leſſer Bucharia, where the forefathers of this tribe formerly lived.—Ruſſia, by the removal of this nation, will be hurt greatly in many reſpects. In the firſt place, that empire loſes 30,000 men, which they were able to raiſe at any time; and, in the next place, it loſes the trade of that people, who uſed to breed vaſt herds of cattle, and brought to Aſtracan and other towns of the Wolga, cows, ſheep, leather, &c. and took back corn, meal, rice, copper kettles, iron, knives, cloth, and Pruſſian commodities of different kinds. The Ruſſians have ſent two ſtrong corps of troops after them, both of which have returned with bad ſucceſs, not having been able to overtake the Turgut, and have met with conſiderable loſſes from the difficulty of the journey they had to take."

United Provinces.

"*Zutphen, Guelderland, April* 28. A battalion of a regiment in the Dutch ſervice, marching through this town to Deventer, their new garriſon, were quartered here that day, and each company had a guard-room without the ports allotted them to lie in that night. Unluckily, about one in the morning, a guard-room took fire where one of the companies were lodged; and being at a dead hour, and without the port, before proper aſſiſtance was got, nine men and a boy periſhed in the flames, and twenty-ſix more were carried to the hoſpital burnt in a moſt ſhocking manner, moſt of whoſe lives are likewiſe deſpaired of. P. S. Since writing the above, two men died in the hoſpital."

"*Hague, May* 7. The Dutch Eaſt-India company have received an account, by the firſt ſhip of their homeward-bound fleet juſt arrived in the Texel, that a moſt terrible earthquake had ſwallowed up a great part of a mountain upon the coaſt of Sumatra, above a league in length, and deſtroyed between two and three thouſand inhabitants, with all their cattle, plantations, &c. and that the fire which iſſued out of the earth had been ſeen at a very great diſtance at ſea." *Lond. gaz.*

"*Amſterdam, May* 10. Letters from Batavia of the 16th of September laſt, adviſe, that on the 11th of Auguſt they obſerved at midnight a bright cloud that covered the mountain in the diſtrict of Cheribon, and that at the ſame time ſeveral reports were heard like thoſe of a gun; that the people who dwelt on the top and at the foot of the mountain, not having

having been able to flee faſt enough, a great part, of almoſt three leagues in circumference, detached itſelf under them; that afterwards it was ſeen riſing and falling like the rolling waves of the ſea, and emit globes of fire ſo luminous, that they were ſeen from afar, and rendered the night as clear as day; that the loſſes occaſioned by this phenomenon were the more conſiderable and melancholy, as 2140 perſons, both foreigners as well natives, loſt their lives; that 1500 head of cattle periſhed, and a great number of horſes, goats, and fowls of every kind; that thirty-nine negro habitations were deſtroyed; the plantations of coffee, indigo, &c. buried in the earth; that in the diſtrict Panimbam, where this mountain is ſituated, there remained only a fifth part of its inhabitants; and that the devaſtation occaſioned by this accident was felt at the diſtance of ſeven leagues round."

FRANCE.

"*Paris, May* 17. The learned have long been employed in ſearch of the *Terræ Auſtrales*. The Sieur Gonneville, of Caen, was the firſt who diſcovered them, in the year 1503; but, having been attacked in his return by pirates, he loſt his journals; and all that we know of his voyage is, that having doubled the Cape of Good Hope, he met with a violent ſtorm, which drove him towards the South into an inhabited iſland.

In 1738 the Sieur Bouvet, commander of two ſhips belonging to the French Eaſt-India company, charged with the ſame reſearch, ſailed above 400 leagues by the ſide of that land, which he diſcovered only by the large pieces of ice which directed him. The firſt of January he ſaw a cape, which he named, on account of the feſtival that day, *Le Cap de la Circonciſion*. At length the Sieur de Kerguelen, lieutenant of a King's ſhip, commanding the pink *La Fortune*, and having with him the ſchooner *Le Gros Ventre*, commanded by the Sieur de Saint-Allouarn, diſcovered, on the 13th of January 1772, two iſlands, which he named, after his own ſhip, *Iſles de la Fortune*. He made ſignal of this diſcovery to the ſchooner; which brought-to, as well as the pink, to ſound. The two ſhips ſounded to the depth of 180 fathoms without finding any bottom. They worked the ſhips all night in ſuch a manner as not to loſe ſight of the two iſlands. The next morning they perceived a new one, which, from its form, was called *L'Iſle Ronde*. At ſeven o'clock the Sieur Kerguelen having deſcried an extenſive tract of land very high, and fearing that the bad condition of his maſts and the violence of the winds would occaſion a ſeparation of the two ſhips, he ſent his longboat with the Sieur de Roſily, enſign of the ſhip, to bring on board the Sieur de Saint-Allouarn, and the Sieur Mengaud, one of the officers of the ſchooner; and after he had given them his orders, he detached the Sieur Roſily in the chaloup belonging to the pink, to attempt to land before the ſchooner. The Sieur Roſily ſounded before that veſſel; but the wind being very high, the Sieur de Saint-Allouarn crouded his ſails, not to loſe time, and paſſed by the chaloup. Being arrived acroſs a bay, to which they gave the name of the ſchooner, the Sieur de Saint-Allouarn hoiſted out his longboat, and ſent the Sieur de Boiſqueheneuc, one of the officers of his ſhip, to take poſſeſſion of the land. The Sieur de Roſily attempted in vain to follow with his chaloup; even the longboat, which was lighter, could not reach the ſhore without a great deal of difficulty, the coaſt being very ſteep. The Sieur de Boiſqueheneuc, however, landed, and took poſſeſſion of the country with the uſual formalities, by ſetting up the King's flag; after which he reimbarked with all his crew, to join the Gros Ventre, which had made the ſignal of return, as night was approaching, and the wind became ſtill more impetuous. The Sieur de Roſily alſo rejoined the ſchooner. The three following days were ſpent in ſearch of the pink La Fortune, which the impetuoſity of the winds had driven ſixty leagues below the land, and ſhe was obliged to retake the route to the Iſle of France, from whence the expedition ſet out. The Sieur de Saint-Allouarn, during thoſe three days, made a draught of the new lands, and of all the iſlands they had diſcovered, of which the Sieur de Kerguelen had alſo drawn a plan. He doubled the North Cape of that great country, which there is the ſtrongeſt reaſon to preſume is the real continent, but which is in this part very high, without trees, and inacceſſible. After having doubled this cape, the Sieur de Saint-Allouarn perceived that the land run a little towards the ſouth-eaſt: he followed that direction above twenty leagues, without ſeeing the ice; and the land

gradually

gradually diſappearing, he ſteered from it, to go and reconnoitre New Holland, at the ſouth-weſt point of which he arrived, and made ſome intereſting diſcoveries. He ſailed from thence to Timor, and afterwards to Batavia, from whence he returned to the Iſle of France, which had been the place of his departure. In this iſle he died, at a time when he was thought to be perfectly recovered of a fever, with which he had been ſeized at Batavia, the ſymptoms of which indicated that he was poiſoned by ſome pulſe dreſſed in a copper pan badly tinned. The Sieur Mengaud, his ſecond in command, alſo died of a diſtemper he contracted at Batavia, both univerſally regretted. Thoſe who accompanied them returned to France. The Sieur de Roſily arrived firſt, from whom we received the foregoing particulars.

The lights already received by the Sieur Kerguelen, who brought the firſt advice of this important diſcovery, and the neceſſity of ſending to the relief of the ſchooner Le Gros Ventre, whoſe lot we are ignorant of, determined the forming of a new armament, the command of which is intruſted to the Sieur Kerguelen. This officer ſailed from Breſt on the 26th of March laſt, on board the ſhip Rolland, accompanied by the frigate L'Oiſeau, commanded by the Sieur de Roſnevet. On board theſe ſhips are imbarked ſome learned and ingenious artiſts, furniſhed with all things neceſſary to ſecure the ſucceſs of the expedition, and to render it uſeful to the Sciences, to Commerce, and Navigation. The voyage will take up two years.

This new attempt, thoſe which have preceded it, the navigations undertaken by the Engliſh, and thoſe which they are ſtill projecting, give us hopes, that we ſhall ſoon arrive at an entire knowledge of our globe."

Italy.

"*Rome, April* 11. The Pope is forming a new muſeum in the Vatican, for pictures, ſtatues, antiques, and every thing precious. He lately paid 3000 l. Sterling to Mr Udny, Britiſh conſul at Venice, for one half of the Sebaſtian of Titian, which picture that gentleman found among rubbiſh, and likewiſe a great many cartoons of Raphael's, as he thought; but the connoiſſeurs agree they are not Raphael's, nor of any thing near the value he puts on them. The Pope takes care to have every thing precious that is found in the excavations about Rome: yet a fine figure of Venus has lately eſcaped him, found by Mr Hamilton, and ſold for 200 l. to a young gentleman, Mr Corbet, who will add a Venus more to England. His Holineſs ſaid, a few days ago, he had been blamed, by well-meaning people, for throwing away his money on Heatheniſh obſcene figures: but they were miſtaken; for there was no fear the world would return to Paganiſm, and he conſulted the good of his ſtate, by forming a muſeum, which would draw ſtrangers to Rome. The ſame Mr Hamilton is an antiquarian, and, I think, at leaſt the ſecond painter in Rome, *i. e.* in Europe. Beſides Mr Hamilton, there are many Scots artiſts at Rome; but one Mengs, a German, is the firſt of all. His colouring is inimitable. A young Swede is the beſt ſculptor: he has done only a Diomede and a Faun. Strangers, in a word, carry off the palm from the Italians, who, in the preſent age, are underlings in every way."

England.

The royal aſſent was given to the following bills.

To theſe, by commiſſion, May 10.

An act to regulate the importation and exportation of corn.

An act to allow a drawback of the duties of cuſtoms, on the exportation of tea to any of his Majeſty's colonies or plantations in America; to increaſe the depoſit on Bohea tea to be ſold at the India company's ſales; and to impower the Commiſſioners of the Treaſury to grant licences to the Eaſt-India company to export tea duty-free.

Bills to enable the Earl of Thanet to make a navigable canal, from the Spring, near Skipton caſtle, Yorkſhire, to join to the canal from Leeds to Liverpool, at Hebble-end-cloſe; for draining certain fen-lands, part of Bedford level; — to enlarge the powers of two acts, 8° & 11° Geo. III. for making and maintaining a navigable canal from the Forth to the Clyde [xxxiii. 161.]; — ſeven road-bills, all Engliſh; — and a bill for enabling James Cox, jeweller, to diſpoſe of his muſeum (Cox's muſeum), by way of chance, for the benefit of himſelf and his creditors.

And nineteen private bills; of which only one relates to Scotland, viz.

An act for impowering the judges of the court of ſeſſion in Scotland, to ſell ſuch part or parts of the eſtate of Barholm, in the ſtewartry

ſtewartry of Kirkcudbright, belonging to John Macculloch now of Barholm, as ſhall be ſufficient for payment of the debts affecting the ſame; and for ſettling the remainder of the ſaid eſtate in tail, on the ſame ſeries of heirs, and in the ſame manner, as is mentioned in a deed of entail made in the year 1762.

Of the remaining eighteen, ten are for dividing and incloſing fields, and two for diſſolving marriages, and enabling the huſbands to marry again, viz. the marriage of John Gordon, Eſq; with John Norris Fiſher, and that of John Greene, Clerk, with Eliſabeth Greene.

And to theſe, by commiſſion, May 28.

An act to diſcourage the practice of commencing frivolous and vexatious ſuits in his Majeſty's courts at Weſtminſter, in cauſes of action ariſing within the dominion of Wales; and for further regulating the proceedings in the courts of great ſeſſions in Wales.

An act for appointing wardens and aſſay-maſters, for aſſaying wrought plate, in the towns of Sheffield and Birmingham.

Ten bills relating to matters of police, five of them bridge and road bills. None of them relate to Scotland.

And eighteen private bills; none of which relate to Scotland. Nine of theſe are for dividing and incloſing fields; and one of them is to diſſolve the marriage of Philip Cade, Eſq; with Catherine Whitworth, his now wife, and to enable him to marry again.

The proclamation for encouraging ſeamen, &c. [222.] was continued in the gazettes till that of May 4. incluſive, and in next gazette appeared a new proclamation, diſcontinuing, from May 6. the date of the laſt proclamation, the bounties offered by the former.

"*Portſmouth, May* 12. Lord Sandwich, and the Lords who came with him, went away much ſatisfied with the ſtate of the navy at this place. Their Lordſhips have granted additional ſalaries to all the clerks in the yard, in order to prevent for the future any clandeſtine uſe of the ſtores, &c.

"*Chatham, May* 15. The Lords of the Admiralty have augmented the ſalaries of the ſtorekeepers and clerks of this yard, by adding 10l. a-year to their ſalaries.

Part of a letter from Capt. Cook, of his Majeſty's ſloop Reſolution, commodore of two veſſels ſent out for proſecuting diſcoveries in the South ſeas [xxxiv. 392.], *dated at the Cape of Good Hope, Nov.* 19. 1772, *to the Lords of the Admiralty.* On the 30th of laſt month I arrived at this place, in company with the Adventure, without any thing remarkable happening in our paſſage. The crews of both ſloops are healthy; and I muſt ſay, your Lordſhips could not have made choice of two finer veſſels in every reſpect for ſuch a voyage; more eſpecially the Reſolution, which has every good quality I could with to find in a ſhip. I now wait for nothing but a wind to get out of the bay, after which I ſhall proceed to the ſouthward without loſs of time."

"*London, May* 22. The Racehorſe and Carcaſs are fitting out for an expedition to the North Pole, under the command of the Hon. Capt. Phipps. Mr Lyons is appointed, by the Board of Longitude, to make obſervations in Aſtronomy, Natural Hiſtory, and Philoſophy.—The principal deſign of the voyage is, to examine the countries and ſeas near the Pole, and to endeavour to find a paſſage this way to Japan; which is now a voyage of about ten months; whereas, if a paſſage could be found by the North, it might be performed in ſeven weeks. A very large collection of inſtruments are prepared for this expedition, for making obſervations and experiments on the ſtate of the atmoſphere in the frigid zone; two watches of Mr Arnold's conſtruction, and one made by Mr Kendal, after Mr Harriſon's, are to be examined, to ſee if they will be uſeful to find the longitude in thoſe cold climates."

"*London, May* 25. Letters arrived yeſterday from Canton in China bring advices of a moſt dreadful hurricane, or tornado, that happened in that river in the month of July laſt, by which all the ſhipping were totally loſt, except the London, a ſhip belonging to the Eaſt-India company. This loſs is computed at many millions ſterling, beſides the lives of 100,000 inhabitants. This may ſeem extravagant; but when it is conſidered, that the fiſhermen on that river, and all others that carry manure for the cultivation of rice, live with their families at all times in their boats, it may not appear ſo enormous. China is ſaid to contain fifty-eight millions of people between the ages of ſixteen and ſixty."

The firſt ſtone of a houſe intended to be built for the uſe of the Marine Society in Biſhopſgate ſtreet, London, was laid by their Preſident Lord Robert Romney, April 3. His Lordſhip was attended by the Governors, and preceded by twenty

of the Society's boys with their banners. [xix. 605.]

A meeting of the freeholders of Middlesex was held, April 30. at the Mile-End assembly room, when, after some debate, Mr Wilkes was chosen chairman. Debates ran high. The friends of Mr Oliver opposed the friends of Mr Wilkes, and much altercation ensued. Mr Horne distinguished himself by his firmness, notwithstanding the repeated hisses of the majority of the company. Sir Watkin Lewes also distinguished himself by his zeal in favour of Mr Wilkes. When the warmth on both sides had at length in a great measure subsided, several resolutions were agreed to, in substance as follows, viz. That the most effectual means of obtaining redress for the violated right of election, and other national grievances, is by bills for shortening the duration of parliament, for excluding placemen and pensioners from the House of Commons, and for a more fair and equal representation of the people: That thanks be given to John Wilkes, Esq; for his perseverance in support of the rights of the freeholders of Middlesex; also thanks to Mr Serj. Glynn for his conduct in parliament, and defence of the rights of the nation at large, and Middlesex in particular: That they would support their present members Messr. Wilkes and Glynn to represent Middlesex in parliament at the next general election: That thanks be given to Sir George Saville for his endeavours to restore the right of election, &c.: That thanks be given to the minority in the House of Commons, who supported the motion on the 26th of April, in support of the rights of the freeholders of Middlesex. Thanks were likewise voted to the present sheriffs, for having summoned Messr. Wilkes and Glynn to attend their duty in parliament; to Mr Sawbridge, for his repeated endeavours to procure a bill for shortening the duration of parliament; and to Mr Wilkes, for his conduct as chairman.

On the 31st of March the banking-house of Sir George Colebroke, Leffingham, and Binns, stopped payment. At a numerous meeting of their creditors held April 6. it appeared, however, on a fair state of accounts, that every creditor would be paid his principal and interest; and that Sir George, after proper allowances made for contingencies, would still have a remainder of more than 100,000l. — At another meeting, held May 4. the creditors, on report of a committee appointed to inquire into the estate and effects of that gentleman, were so well satisfied with the promising state of his affairs, that it was proposed by some gentlemen present, that Sir George should again resume the banking-business with his old partners; but others were of opinion, that it would be proper to associate a new partner, who would have an interest in keeping the old debts distinct.

On the 25th of April two East-Indian Princes and their consorts, with a young female child, belonging to them, were presented to their Majesties at St James's, and graciously received. They were richly dressed in the Eastern manner, with diamonds hanging from their ears to their breasts, nearly resembling chains.

"*London, April* 15. A bird of a very extraordinary nature has been brought to Europe on board the Nottingham East-Indiaman. It is called the *Hurgill* by the natives of the Coromandel coast, walks upright, and is taller than a middle-sized man; the wings extended measure above fifteen feet; its colour is a mixture of black and white. Though a bird of prey, and constantly doing great mischief to the Indians, by carrying off their lambs, poultry, &c. they never destroy it, as they, according to their superstitious notions, hold it in a sacred light, imagining the spirits of the deceased Brahmins, by means of the transmigration of souls, inhabit them."

"*Jersey, April* 26. We were greatly alarmed, on the 15th inst. with two shocks of earthquakes, and on the 16th we had a third, a fourth on the 23d about noon, and a fifth the same night, about half after eleven, which last was the strongest shock of them all. Many people got up, and left their houses all night. Thank God, no damage has yet been done, as the shocks have not been very violent. The court met on Saturday, and made an act, at the request of the Dean, and by the consent of the Governor, for a general fast, to be observed on Friday next, on account of these earthquakes."

SCOTLAND.

The general assembly of the church of Scotland met, at Edinburgh, on Thursday, May 20. [xxxiv. 396.]. — Mr Adam Ferguson, minister at Moulin, moderator of the preceding assembly, preached a sermon, in the High church, before the

the King's Commissioner, Charles Lord Cathcart, who now succeeded John Earl of Glasgow in that high office, as the Noble Lord last mentioned did the present High Commissioner in 1764 [xxvi. 287.]: after which his Grace, and the ministers and ruling elders chosen to compose this assembly, convened in the assembly-house, in the usual manner. Dr John Drysdale, one of the ministers of Edinburgh, Principal Muirison at St Andrew's, and Dr Robert Hamilton, professor of divinity in the college of Edinburgh, were put upon the leet for moderator: Dr Drysdale was chosen, 185 to 1 and 3; and, at the assembly's desire, took the chair: the assembly was then constituted, and the usual forms observed.

On Friday, the 21st, on report of a committee, the following gentlemen were appointed to lecture and preach in the forenoon, and preach in the afternoon, before the Commissioner, viz. Mr John Adamson at St Andrew's, in the forenoon, and Mr Patrick Carfrae at Morham, in the afternoon, of Sunday May 23.; and Mr Alexander Angus at Tullinesle, in the forenoon, and Mr James Henderson at Monyfieth, in the afternoon, of Sunday May 30. Which they did accordingly.

On Saturday, May 22. the assembly took under consideration a commission from the borough of Air, in favour of Convener John Campbell.——Mr Campbell was chosen a deacon in the kirk-session of Air Feb. 4. 1740, and an elder Jan. 27. 1752; and he was chosen by the town-council of Air as commissioner from that borough to this assembly. The kirk-session refused to attest his commission; giving as the reason of their refusal the following state of facts: That Mr Campbell was admitted an elder, and continued to discharge the duties of his office till the beginning of the year 1767; that then he withdrew from the session, and all the duties of his office; that at the communion in February 1767 he did not bring in the roll of communicants in his quarter, and at next communion in July 1767, being desired, by particular order of the session, to attend on a certain day with a roll of his quarter, he did not attend, or send any excuse; that thereupon the session appointed another elder to take the charge of his quarter, and public intimation was made in the church, that communicants were to receive their tokens from the new-admitted elder, he having taken the charge of that quarter; that from that time Mr Campbell has not communicated in this congregation, nor attended public worship regularly; and that it does not consist with the knowledge of the session, that he hath signed the formula 1694 [xxix. 12.]: But the session do certify, That he is an heritor, and residenter in this borough.

Mr Campbell appealed to the presbytery. In the reasons of appeal it is observed, That by the form of attestation of a kirk-session, it is required, that they do, in terms of the act of assembly 1720, testify and declare, That the commissioner is an elder lawfully ordained; That he has signed the formula 1694; and, That he is an heritor, or residenter, or has formerly resided and officiated as an elder, in the borough: and then it is argued, That the form does not require, that Mr Campbell *does now*, but only that he *did*, officiate as an elder in the borough; adding, that he actually did attend the session for several of the latest diets, and must remain a member till deposed; consequently may still be elected a member of assembly: That his reasons for withdrawing from the duties of his office, at dispensing the sacrament, were, that the ministers of the borough took upon themselves to bring ministers to assist, who, from their weak voice, could not be heard by the half of the congregation; and on Mr Campbell's intreating, either that the session would be satisfied with the assisting ministers, or that such only should be called as could be heard, he was, in place of a mild expostulation, peremptorily told, that it was none of his concern what ministers were brought: That moreover the ministers of Air, in direct contradiction to the appointment of assembly, discharge the teaching of the Larger and Shorter Catechisms; at least they virtually do so, by countenancing the neglect of teaching them, and not appointing them to be used: That they have adopted the modern practice of reading their sermons, instead of preaching; a practice till of late unknown: That the ministers of Air, though frequently desired, declined giving him an opportunity of reasoning with them on these points; that indeed Mr Dalrymple gave him a short conversation, and on his making certain promises, Mr Campbell, while these promises were kept, regularly attended public worship, in the

church of Air: That his zeal for holy ordinances hath continued, and he hopes will continue while he lives; that he hath not been inactive in viſiting, and praying with and for the ſick, a duty it is to be feared not above one or two of the other elders of the pariſh do much if ever practiſe; and that he hath regularly communicated with congregations of the eſtabliſhed church, and with no other: That as to the formula, he is not poſitive, but thinks he has ſigned it; and if not, he offered to the ſeſſion, and ſtill offers to ſign it, though it is believed few or none of the elders to aſſembly do ſign it.

Anſwers were made, in which, after obſerving, that theſe Reaſons are, for the moſt part, a vague confuſed heap of unjuſt and illiberal reflections againſt the miniſters of Air, and to whom it is left to anſwer when properly called upon to do it, the ſeſſion ſay, That a perſon who has formerly reſided, and officiated as an elder, in a borough, and who afterwards removes to the remoteſt corner in Scotland, is ſtill eligible as that borough's commiſſioner to the aſſembly; that it is very true Mr Campbell did formerly officiate as an elder in Air, but that would have been equally true, though he had been depoſed ſome time ago, or even though he were at preſent under the ſentence of the larger excommunication; that though he was never formally depoſed, the ſeſſion underſtood him to have virtually reſigned, and his conduct, in divers inſtances, ſpecified above, confirmed them in that opinion: and, That he never offered, in the preſence of the ſeſſion, to ſign the formula.

The preſbytery, May 5. 1773, approved of the conduct of the ſeſſion, diſmiſſed the appeal, and refuſed to atteſt Mr Campbell's commiſſion. From which ſentence Mr Thomas Walker miniſter at Dundonald diſſented; to whoſe diſſent Mr William Auld adhered.

The aſſembly heard read a petition and complaint for Mr Campbell, a petition for Thomas Walker, the minutes of the ſeſſion and preſbytery, reaſons of appeal, and anſwers, and heard parties; then, after long reaſoning, a vote was put, Suſtain the commiſſion, or, Reject? and carried, Reject, 93 to 31. From which ſentence the diſſent above [245.] inſerted was taken.

An addreſs to the King on the birth of a prince [53. 109.] was moved for, and unanimouſly agreed to; and a committee was appointed to prepare it. — A draught of the addreſs was given in next day, read, approved of, and ſubſcribed by the moderator in preſence of the aſſembly. At the aſſembly's requeſt, the Commiſſioner undertook to tranſmit it to his Majeſty. — It was preſented by the Earl of Suffolk, one of the principal ſecretaries of ſtate, and graciouſly received; and it appeared in the London gazette of May 29.

A committee appointed by the former aſſembly for the better ordering of the aſſembly-houſe, gave in their report on Monday, May 24. bearing, That of different plans made at their deſire, the one they preferred was laid before the town-council of Edinburgh, and by them approved; that it was reſolved, Feb. 12. 1773, to begin the work immediately, though ſubſcriptions, the manner in which the money is raiſed, were not then got for above one third of the eſtimated expence; that ſundry royal boroughs, gentlemen and miniſters, have contributed; that 145l. 16s. 6d. has already been ſubſcribed, and that as much more will be neceſſary to complete the work, and paint the whole; and they gave in an overture, which, after a few amendments, was approved of, and is as follows, viz. "1. That the moderator ſhall be diſtinguiſhed from the other members, by wearing a gown, when he is in the chair; and that the clerks ſhall alſo have gowns provided for them. 2. That the middle ſeat on the bench at the north end of the clerks table ſhall be allotted to the procurator of the church. [On a motion made May 27. the aſſembly appointed the procurator to wear a gown when he ſits in his place.] 3. That, as uſual, a ſeat ſhall be allotted to the magiſtrates of Edinburgh, and that the ſeat covered with green cloth on the right hand of the throne be ſo allotted. 4. That the three middle benches oppoſite to the moderator's chair be allotted for the bar. 5. That it be recommended to the nobility and others who may attend his Grace the Commiſſioner, to take their ſeats upon both hands of the throne, or between the throne and the moderator's chair; and that all members, as they come in, take their ſeats as near the middle of the houſe as they can. 6. That no perſon whatever ſhall be allowed to ſtand in the paſſages; and that members

ſhall

shall always be seated, except when they rise to speak, or to give their votes. 7. That a number of proper tickets shall be provided, and given out by the clerks to the members of assembly, when their commissions are delivered; and also to such ministers, preachers, and gentlemen, as may call for them; the clerks taking care, that a greater number upon the whole, be not given out, than the house will easily contain: and that no person who receives a ticket shall give it away. [By the committee's authority, cards were given by their clerk, with his name written on them, to serve this year for tickets.] 8. That the beadles shall not admit any person, excepting noblemen and gentlemen attending his Grace the Commissioner, at the middle doors, without seeing his ticket, under the penalty of being deprived of their office. 9. That the tickets given to visitors shall have their names indorsed upon them, and be used only by themselves. 10. That members who ask admittance without tickets, shall, upon sending in their names in writing to the clerks, immediately receive them. 11. That the west gallery shall be allotted for such students of divinity as have tickets from any of the professors of divinity; and that no other person shall be admitted into it for one hour after the meeting of assembly; after which time other gentlemen may be admitted. 12. That the east gallery shall be wholly allowed for the use of spectators. 13. That the counsel at the bar may be desired to appear in their gowns, as a proper mark of respect to the court." —— The committee was continued, with the powers formerly given them, for completing the right ordering of the house.

An application from the synod of Moray, to alter the time of that synod's meeting, from the second Tuesday of August [xxxii. 285.], to the fourth Tuesday of April, and the synod to be held on the last-mentioned day annually, was unanimously agreed to.

A petition for Mr James Burges, schoolmaster at Scoon, and preacher of the gospel, licensed by a classical meeting of Presbyterian ministers at Newcastle [xxxiv. 270.], was read. Appearance was made for Mr Burgess, and for the presbytery of Perth. After hearing parties, and reasoning, the assembly, without a vote, sustained the licence to Mr Burges.

On Tuesday, May 25. a memorial and petition for the magistrates of Montrose, in name and by appointment of the subscribers for building a bridge over the Northesk, near Montrose, was read.— These petitioners set forth, That the ford of the river Northesk, on the post-road from Montrose to Aberdeen, is extremely dangerous; that in 1763, a subscription was opened for building a bridge over it; that in 1765, Mr Smeaton, engineer, having been employed, made a plan of a bridge, and an estimate of the charges of building it, which amounted to 6000l. Sterling; that for carrying this design into execution, the petitioners have received 500l. from the convention of royal boroughs, 500l. from the commissioners of the annexed estates, and 200 guineas from the town-council of Aberdeen, and have caused subscriptions to be opened at London, Edinburgh, Dundee, Montrose, and Aberdeen; that, some years ago, the petitioners entered into a contract with two skilful masons, who found caution in 3000l. to have the bridge finished by Martinmas 1773, and to uphold it for ten years, provided the necessary charges should be duly furnished; that the bridge is now in considerable forwardness, all the piers being built, and two of the arches finished; that the petitioners, finding 1000l. Sterling still wanting to enable them to fulfil their contract, applied to the synod of Angus and Mearns, at their meeting at Montrose in October last, for a collection through all the parishes in their bounds, which was unanimously granted, and the collection has been made, with such success as could not have been expected in the present exhausted and impoverished state of this country; that however, after all their endeavours, the petitioners find, there must still be a considerable sum wanting to complete the work: they therefore pray the assembly to appoint a collection to be made for completing it, in all the parishes within Scotland, except the synod of Angus and Mearns, on or before the first Sabbath of January next. —The assembly granted the request of this petition, and appointed a committee to draw up an act and recommendation to that purpose.--A draught of the act was accordingly given in, read, and approved of, on the 27th; and the assembly appointed an extract of the act to be given by the clerk to the agent for the petitioners, that he might

might tranſmit copies of it to the ſeveral preſbyteries of the church; and appointed the preſbyteries, at their firſt meeting after receiving the act, to fix a day betwixt and the firſt of January next, in their reſpective bounds, for making the collection.

Next was taken in a petition and complaint of Sir John Stewart of Allanbank, patron of the pariſh of St Ninian's, who had preſented Mr David Thomſon miniſter at Gargunnock, to be maſter of St Ninian's, and of the Duke of Montroſe, the Earl of Dunmore, thirty-three gentlemen and ladies, named in the petition, and others, heritors, concurring with the preſentee. — This ſettlement has now been before ſeven ſucceſſive aſſemblies. The patron had given aſſurances, provided the preſentee were ſettled as a preliminary, that he would uſe his endeavours to procure a competent proviſion for a helper to him; and on this was founded the report given in to the preceding aſſembly by a committee [xxxiv. 269.]. That aſſembly appointed the preſbytery of Stirling to ſettle Mr Thomſon on or before the 20th of November 1772. Agreeably to what was promiſed, the patron's doers had ſeveral meetings with the heritors to concert a plan for providing a helper; and though the heritors would not bind themſelves to the perpetual ſupport of one, it had been generally agreed, that a helper ſhould be ſupported during Mr Thomſon's incumbency, and conſiderable progreſs had been made in providing a handſome fund for that purpoſe: The patron agreed, that the reverſion of the vacant ſtipend ſhould be thrown into the fund; the heritors propoſed giving 20 l. themſelves, and adding 15 l. from the funds of the ſeſſion. At the ſame time, as it was impoſſible to aſcertain at what preciſe time this buſineſs could be brought to a concluſion, the complainers inſiſted, that the preſbytery ſhould in the mean time give obedience to the ſentence of the aſſembly, by carrying the ſettlement into execution. After ſeveral delays, the doer for the patron, Nov. 4. renewing his requiſition to fix a day for Mr Thomſon's admiſſion, was aſked, If he had any inſtructions from the patron relative to the report of the committee of aſſembly on this affair, which narrates, "That ſuch meaſures were then purſuing for the good of that pariſh, as there was all reaſon to believe would give ſatisfaction to all concerned;" which report was adopted by the aſſembly? he anſwered, he had none; but inſiſted, that the admiſſion ſhould be on the 20th, or ſome day before, in terms of the judgement of aſſembly. On which the preſbytery came to the following reſolution. "The preſbytery taking this affair into their moſt ſerious conſideration, and conſulting the extract judgement of the laſt general aſſembly, were of opinion, that their appointment to admit Mr Thomſon at St Ninian's on or before the 20th of November, is cloſely connected with and founded upon a report of the committee of aſſembly appointed for the purpoſe of bringing about a comfortable ſettlement in that pariſh, and which makes mention of ſuch meaſures now purſuing for the good of the pariſh as will give ſatisfaction to all concerned. The preſbytery being alſo informed by their commiſſioners to laſt aſſembly, and others who were occaſionally preſent, that the patron, in preſence of the committee, had agreed, and given his word of honour, to provide a ſufficient and perpetual fund for an ordained aſſiſtant in the pariſh, agreeable to the people, and paid independent of them; but it appearing, that as yet nothing had been done by the patron towards the execution of theſe meaſures, are of opinion, that the laudable views of the aſſembly and their committee have not been followed out; they therefore judge it inexpedient, in theſe circumſtances, to proceed to the admiſſion of Mr Thomſon: and the preſbytery hope, that the general aſſembly will not conſider this delay as ariſing from any diſreſpect to their authority; eſpecially as they ſtill found themſelves under difficulties, ariſing from continued oppoſition of the pariſh of St Ninian's to Mr Thomſon's ſettlement, notwithſtanding all the endeavours yet uſed to remove the ſame." Which judgement was appealed from to the aſſembly. — In the Caſe for the patron, and thoſe concurring with his preſentee, it is ſaid, That though the committee of the aſſembly 1772 reported the fact, That meaſures were purſuing for the good of the pariſh, as an additional reaſon for ordering Mr Thomſon's ſettlement on a particular day, they did not by any means ſuggeſt the connecting it with, or making its time depend upon, the completion of thoſe meaſures; and accordingly the aſſembly made an unconditional appointment on the preſbytery

to

to proceed to the ſettlement on the 20th of November: That two aſſertions in the above reſolution of the preſbytery, are abſolutely erroneous. 1. According to it, the patron gave his word of honour, that a ſufficient and perpetual fund ſhould be provided for an ordained aſſiſtant in the pariſh, agreeable to the people, and paid independent of them; whereas the patron's promiſe was only, that in order to remove all pretence of oppoſition to Mr Thomſon, he would uſe his intereſt with the heritors to provide a fund for an aſſiſtant during his incumbency; but he did not agree, either that the aſſiſtant ſhould be ordained, or that he ſhould be perpetual. 2. The preſbytery aſſert, That as yet nothing had been done by the patron towards the execution of the concerted meaſures. But this is contradicted by the fact, as above related; and as it was generally agreed, that a helper ſhould be ſupported during Mr Thomſon's incumbency, it is more than probable, that the buſineſs would have been finally ſettled ere now, had not an imbarraſſment ariſen, from the preſbytery's inſiſting, that the helper ſhould be ordained, and that the patron and heritors ſhould provide a fund for ſupporting one, not only during his incumbency, but bind themſelves to the ſame meaſure in all time coming; which is a meaſure they are not at preſent diſpoſed to adopt, and which they will not be driven into by the arbitrary project of this preſbytery, to whom they think they are abundantly complaiſant, when they take meaſures for ſupporting a helper during Mr Thomſon's incumbency; reſerving to themſelves and their ſucceſſors to judge according to circumſtances, whether they will do ſo in time coming or not. They conclude with praying the aſſembly, to order either the preſbytery of Stirling, or a committee of their own number, to proceed to the ſettlement at a diet previous to the riſing of the aſſembly, or to give ſuch other order as may ſeem proper. —— Appearance was made in this aſſembly for the petitioners, and for the preſbytery of Stirling. Parties were fully heard; and the aſſembly reaſoned long on the affair: then a member made a motion, That the preſbytery ſhould be appointed to proceed to the ſettlement with all convenient ſpeed, according to the rules of the church. But a ſecond motion having been made, a vote was put, Firſt or Second motion? and carried, Second, 133 to 69. Therefore the aſſembly, in terms of the ſecond motion, "did, and hereby do, appoint the preſbytery of Stirling to admit Mr Thomſon, as miniſter at St Ninian's, the laſt Tueſday of June next, between the hours of ten in the forenoon and four in the afternoon; and appoint all the miniſters of the preſbytery of Stirling to attend that day; and if a quorum of three be preſent, to proceed to the admiſſion; and that they ſhall report their obedience to the commiſſion in Auguſt, or any ſubſequent meeting thereof, with the names of all the miniſters preſent: And the aſſembly appoint the commiſſion, in caſe the ſettlement ſhall not have taken effect, to ſummon the preſbytery of Stirling to appear before the next aſſembly to anſwer for their diſobedience; and alſo, if the admiſſion ſhall have taken effect, and if any of the members of the preſbytery ſhall not have attended at the admiſſion, the aſſembly appoint theſe abſent members to be ſummoned by the commiſſion, to appear before the next aſſembly to anſwer for their diſobedience: And the aſſembly further appoint their moderator, to write to the patron of St Ninian's, acquainting him of the ſentence paſſed by the aſſembly; and recommending to him, and the other heritors, that upon the ſettlement's taking place, he would take the ſpeedieſt method of providing an aſſiſtant in the pariſh of St Ninian's." — From which ſentence the diſſent above inſerted [247.] was taken.

On Wedneſday, May 26. a petition of Mr Neil Campbell, doer for the King, as patron of the pariſh of Cardroſs, and of ſeveral heritors, concurrers with his Majeſty's preſentation in favour of Mr John Macaulay miniſter at Inverary, to be miniſter of Cardroſs, was read. Appearance was made for the patron, for the preſbytery, for the ſynod, and for five elders who oppoſed the preſentee's ſettlement. Parties having been fully heard, the aſſembly, after reaſoning, did, without a vote, reverſe the ſentences of the preſbytery and ſynod, ſuſtain the call to Mr Macaulay, and appoint the preſbytery of Dumbarton to take the proper ſteps for his tranſlation from Inverary to Cardroſs, and in caſe of a ſentence tranſlating him, to proceed with all convenient ſpeed to his admiſſion as miniſter of Cardroſs, according to the rules of the church. — The following members craved, it might be marked, that they did

not

not aſſent to this judgement, viz. Meſſ. Robert Macculloch, at Dairſy; Robert Bogie, at Logie; Charles Niſbet, at Montroſe; and Adam Roſe, at Dingwall, Miniſters: and Walter Gibſon, ſurgeon in Leith; Thomas Maxwell, of Drumpark; William Martin; Walter Coſſer, deputy-comptroller of exciſe; Walter Scot, merchant in Edinburgh; John Pattiſon, town-treaſurer of Paiſley; John Mitchell, tenant in Hartriemill; Joſeph Gavine, merchant in Edinburgh; and John Lindſay, at Water-of-Leith, Ruling Elders.

A committee appointed on the 26th, to conſider an overture relating to Norriſtown [xxxiv. 273.], gave in their report on Thurſday, May 27. — Mr John Snodgraſs, miniſter of the peramбulated bounds of Norriſtown, repreſented to the preſbytery of Dumblane, That as the aſſembly 1770 had granted 600 merks out of the funds of Norriſtown to be applied for rebuilding the old manſion-houſe of Norriſtown, ſo as to accommodate the ſaid miniſter, on condition that the people of the bounds would contribute other 600 merks for that purpoſe; and as theſe two ſums have never yet been raiſed, and appear rather too ſmall for the deſign; it was therefore propoſed, that the preſbytery would allow the intereſt of the 600 merks granted by the aſſembly ſince Lammas 1770, to be added to them, in order more effectually to execute the deſign. On a motion to that purpoſe, it was unanimouſly agreed, that the preſbytery ſhould apply to the aſſembly, to obtain allowance of other 600 merks out of the ſaid funds, which, making in whole 100l. Sterling, would, with the carriages to be furniſhed by the people of the bounds, build a ſufficient manſe and offices for the miniſter and his ſucceſſors, when this may become a legal erection. The preſbytery inſtructed their commiſſioners to the aſſembly accordingly, and recommended to the people of Norriſtown, to lay before them an obligation by reſponſible perſons for the 600 merks to be contributed by them. — The aſſembly's committee reported, that the funds of Norriſtown are in full condition to afford the ſums demanded. — The aſſembly approved, and appointed accordingly.

A petition of Douglas Duke of Hamilton and Brandon, patron of the pariſh of Cambuſlang, and of ſeveral heritors concurring with his Grace's preſentation in favour of Mr James Meek miniſter at Leſmahagow, to be miniſter of Cambuſlang, was taken under conſideration. Appearance was made for the patron and others appellants, for the pariſh, for the preſbytery, and for the ſynod. Parties being fully heard, the aſſembly, after reaſoning, gave judgement in the ſame terms, verbatim, as was given in the caſe of Cardroſs [271.]. Mr Walter Gibſon proteſted, that he could not aſſent to this judgement, and Meſſ. Macculloch and Walter Coſſer adhered.

A petition and complaint of Andrew Wilſon, Thomas Donald, Thomas Garvock, and William Torbat, elders, and of James Smyth of Balharry, one of the four heritors of the pariſh of Lentrathen, in behalf of the kirk-ſeſſion and congregation of that pariſh, was read. Appearance was made for the petitioners appellants, for the reſpondents, Mr Ogilvie of Clova, and others, and for the preſbytery of Meigle. Parties having been heard, the aſſembly, after reaſoning, diſmiſſed the appeal, as incompetent.

A petition for Meſſ. Walter Moriſon miniſter at Arderſier, and Thomas Gordon miniſter at Auldearn, in their own name and that of others adhering to them, praying, that theſe ſix pariſhes, viz. Calder, Croy, Arderſier, Nairn, Auldearn, and Ardelach, be diſjoined from the preſbyteries of Inverneſs, Forres, and Chanonry, and erected into a new preſbytery, under the name of the preſbytery of *Nairn*, — a repreſentation to the ſame purpoſe by the miniſters of thoſe pariſhes to the ſynod of Moray, with the ſynod's approbation, — and a petition for Mr Moriſon himſelf, ſetting forth, That he having repreſented to the ſynod of Roſs the inconveniencies to which he is ſubjected by being annexed to the preſbytery of Chanonry, and praying to be annexed to the preſbytery of Nairn, if the ſcheme in agitation for the erection of a preſbytery under that name ſhould take effect, the ſynod refuſed their conſent to his being diſjoined from them, and that he appealed to the aſſembly; — all theſe having been remitted to a committee on the 27th, that committee reported this day, That it was their opinion, that the deſire of the petitioners ſhould be granted. Which having been conſidered by the aſſembly, they agreed to it, and enacted accordingly; appointing the firſt preſbytery to be held at Nairn

Nairn on the fourth Tueſday of July next. —— That this erection did not take place when the other preſbyteries of this ſynod were erected, is thus accounted for in the aforementioned repreſentation. — "It is well known, that at thoſe times this part of the kingdom was in general ſo far from being ſufficiently provided with miniſters of the Preſbyterian communion, that to ſupply the north, and plant vacant churches therein, was the great object which employed our general aſſemblies for twenty or thirty years immediately after the revolution. Moſt of the kirks in this country were occupied by miniſters of the Epiſcopal communion, who, though they would not comform to the eſtabliſhment, yet, by the laudable lenity of the government, were allowed to retain the poſſeſſion of their kirks. This was particularly the caſe of the pariſh of Nairn. The incumbent, who was Epiſcopal, kept his kirk for a very long time, having ſurvived all his brethren of that denomination in this diſtrict; nor was there a Preſbyterian miniſter ſettled at Nairn till ſo late as the year 1731."

A repreſentation for the truſtees of the widows fund, with a letter from the Rev. Dr Webſter to the ſaid truſtees, which had been tranſmitted by them to preſbyteries and univerſities, for the conſideration of the contributors, having been laid before the aſſembly on the 24th, and read, a committee was appointed to meet with the truſtees and the collector, to commune on the ſubject, and report on Friday.— Their report was called for on Friday, May 28. given in, and read. Then the articles in Dr Webſter's letter were read one by one, together with the report of the committee upon each article, and Dr Webſter was heard at great length in illuſtration of them. — The articles, the alterations propoſed, and the determination of the aſſembly upon them, are already inſerted [240.]. —— The aſſembly ordered the propoſed alterations on the ſcheme to be printed, and tranſmitted to preſbyteries and univerſities, that the contributors within their reſpective bounds may report their opinion to the truſtees on or before their ſtated meeting in February 1774, that matters may be prepared by them to be laid before next aſſembly; and recommended to Dr Webſter, to aſſign ſuch reaſons under each article of the propoſed alterations as may tend to illuſtrate the ſame, and to obviate any difficulties, which, as appears from the returns made by preſbyteries, ſome of the contributors have reſpecting certain articles. — The aſſembly unanimouſly agreed, that the thanks of the houſe ſhould be given by the moderator from the chair, to Dr Webſter, for his care and attention with reſpect to the affairs of this fund: which was done accordingly.

A petition of the officers of ſtate was read, concerning the united pariſh of Liff and Benvie, in the preſbytery of Dundee. Mr James Playfair, the laſt incumbent, died on the 28th of May 1772. My Lord Gray, as patron, gave a preſentation in favour of Mr John Playfair, probationer, ſon of the laſt incumbent. Some time after, the King's Advocate informed the preſbytery by a letter, that he had reaſon to doubt of the right of preſentation being in Lord Gray, and to believe it to be in the crown; and a preſentation by the King was granted to Mr George Douglas, miniſter at Kirkwall. The preſbytery ſuſtained Lord Gray's preſentation; and this ſentence was unanimouſly affirmed by the ſynod of Angus and Mearns. The purport of the prayer of the petition was, either that Mr Douglas's ſettlement ſhould be proceeded in, or that all procedure ſhould be ſiſted till the point of right ſhould be decided in the civil court. Appearance was made for the King, for Lord Gray, for the preſbytery, and for the ſynod. Parties having been fully heard, the aſſembly, after reaſoning, unanimouſly affirmed the ſentences of the preſbytery of Dundee, and ſynod of Angus and Mearns; and appointed the preſbytery to proceed to the ſettlement of Mr Playfair, as miniſter of the united pariſhes of Benvie and Liff, with all convenient ſpeed, according to the rules of the church.

Two overtures were unanimouſly agreed to by the ſynod of Aberdeen, and tranſmitted to this aſſembly, viz.

1. "As it is ſtrongly reported, that there are deſigns on foot for inducing clergymen to accept of qualifications for voting in the election of members of parliament, upon ſplitting of valued rents [13.], and conveying ſuperiorities, and thereby acquiring a title which may be looked on as nominal and fictitious, and would give very great and general offence, as well as be extremely prejudicial to the intereſts of religion; the ſynod therefore did, and hereby do, expreſs their higheſt diſapprobation of the ſaid prac-

tice, as sufficient to infer censure; and therefore do most earnestly recommend to all their members to give no countenance thereto." *Aberdeen, Oct.* 15. 1772.

2. "In regard of the many obvious inconveniencies flowing from the right which the present practice of this church gives to lay elders to judge in the trials of candidates for the holy ministry, several parts of which must be supposed above the capacity of many of them to cognosce [xxxii. 619.], the general assembly should take that matter into their serious consideration, and provide such remedy in this matter as to them in their wisdom shall seem meet." *Aberdeen, April* 14. 1772.

The above two overtures, and one from the presbytery of Aberdeen, were read in the assembly on Saturday, May 29. and ordered to lie on the table; and the order was renewed the last sederunt of the assembly.

Upon report of the committee for overtures, That last year there appeared 38 presbyteries agreeing to the overture respecting members of inferior courts judging in causes appealed from them, but that this year, by some presbyteries retracting their former opinion, there are only 36 presbyteries agreeing: the assembly agreed to retransmit this overture [xxxii. 342.] once more, as also the overture relating to probationers being licensed without the bounds of the church [xxxiv. 270.], and the overture respecting ruling elders, &c. [xxxii. 342.]; and a motion being made with respect to the former of the two last overtures, viz. that relating to probationers being licensed without the bounds of the church, That it should be made an interim act or rule, it was agreed, that this motion should lie on the table. But it was dropt in the last sederunt of the assembly.

The committee for overtures were impowered, on the 22d, to receive, and consider, any accounts that should be given them of the state of the church in the north highlands, particularly the growth of Popery and superstition, and to prepare an overture for preventing or suppressing thereof. An overture having been accordingly transmitted, importing, That from the reports made to former assemblies [xxxvii. 457. 680. xxxiv. 289.], by Drs Dick and Hyndman in 1760, and Dr Walker in 1762, and by two reports made to the society for propagating Christian knowledge in 1771 and 1772, by a person employed by them to visit their schools, it appears, that Popery is on the increase in the highlands and islands of Scotland; and that therefore the assembly should take this matter into their most serious consideration, and do therein as they shall think most proper, for checking the alarming progress of Popery, and for the more extensive propagation of the true, Protestant, reformed religion: — a committee was appointed, on the 24th, to take it into consideration, and to report. This report was given in on the 25th, read, and ordered to lie upon the table. The matter was resumed on the 29th; and on a motion made to that purpose, a standing committee, of thirty-nine ministers, and sixteen ruling elders, was appointed, to consider the state of facts relating to the report, and to take every step that shall appear to them most proper and effectual for remedying the evil complained of.

A petition for John Kennedy of Sheldholm, and Mr William Bryden minister at Dalton, and a petition for the kirk-session of Lochmaben, and Mr Richard Brown moderator of it, were read. — A long Case was distributed for Mr Kennedy; but for Mr Brown, only a short narrative of facts, with occasional references, for proof, to the extract of the process. The Case, from which alone the particulars are to be got, and which should be read with some grains of allowance, sets forth, That Mr Brown discovered an immoderate keenness, to have Mr William Alexander, merchant in Edinburgh, elected a commissioner from the presbytery of Lochmaben to the assembly 1771; that with this view he used his influence with the neighbouring kirk-sessions to send up to the presbytery such elders as would vote for his candidate; that he not only used his own influence with Mr Kennedy, to prevail with him to vote for his candidate, promising him great favours if he would engage, but procured other persons to apply to him for that purpose, but Mr Kennedy declined explicitly to declare himself till the time of the election; that this alarmed Mr Brown; who, as if Mr Kennedy had no great reason to rely upon his verbal promises, wrote him a letter, the morning of the meeting of presbytery, of the following tenor: — "*Lochmaben, 2d April* 1771. Dear John, You know that I have always been your good friend. I hope you will stand by me in chusing

Mr

Mr Alexander to be elder from the presbytery to the general assembly; and in that event you may depend upon it that I will serve both you and your son in any thing that lies within the compass of my power. I am your sincere friend, [signed] R. Brown. [Addressed,] To John Kennedy of Skedholm at Greenhill;"—that Mr Kennedy voted for another than Mr Brown's candidate; that some of the presbytery being informed, that undue influence had been used by a member to bias the elders in their votes, so soon as the election was over it was moved, That an inquiry should be made into the matter; that Mr Brown seconded the motion, and added, that if any member should be found to have used such influence, he ought to be censured with the utmost severity, declaring at the same time his own perfect innocence; that this shocked Mr Kennedy so much, that he thought he could not in conscience conceal the letter; that the letter was produced, and read: that the presbytery considered it as gross bribery and corruption, but Mr Brown maintained, that it was a fair, innocent, and lawful means of procuring a vote, as he had only *promised*, but *given* Mr Kennedy nothing; that the presbytery "found it to be an improper letter, and expressed their disapprobation thereof; and ordered their sentence, together with the said letter, to be recorded;" that Mr Brown, now filled with resentment against Mr Kennedy, meditated revenge; that accordingly, at the next meeting of session, April 7. he insulted him, calling him a liar, and many bad names, and prevailed with the session to pronounce a judgement, disapproving of his conduct in voting contrary "to their instructions," though in a written representation which they afterwards gave in to the presbytery they declared that they had never instructed him at all; that Mr Brown prevailed with the session, July 7. to suspend Mr Kennedy *brevi manu* without any trial; from which sentence, and that of April 7. Mr Kennedy appealed to the presbytery, July 21.; that Mr Kennedy having, before he offended Mr Brown, been appointed to attend the synod of Dumfries in April 1771, Mr Brown, after taking offence, prevailed with the session to set Mr Kennedy aside, and chuse another in his room; that Mr Kennedy claimed his seat in the synod, April 17. but was set aside for want of an extract, his election not having been recorded; that Mr Brown, Aug. 6. gave in to the presbytery a libel, holograph of himself, in name of the session, against Mr Kennedy, accusing him of *gross falsehoods*, and *barefaced and impudent lies*, in asserting that he had been elected ruling elder to the synod; that the presbytery, Oct. 1. "reversed the sentence of the session of April 7. disapproving of Mr Kennedy's conduct;" but delayed giving judgement on the appeal from the sentence of suspension; that Mr Kennedy carried the matter before the synod of Dumfries; by whom the suspension was removed, and Mr Kennedy restored to the exercise of his office; from which sentence Mr Brown appealed to the assembly 1772; that on the first Sabbath after, Oct. 20. Mr Kennedy thought it his duty to exercise his office, and therefore sat in the elders seat, whence he reached out his hand to get from the kirk-officer one of the boxes to collect for the poor; that the officer would not quit his hold, but letting another box fall, Mr Kennedy took it up, and was going to collect; that Mr Brown, from the pulpit, ordered him not to collect, saying he would not allow him; to which Mr Kennedy replied, that he had a right to collect; and he collected accordingly; that Mr Kennedy then claimed his seat in the session, but was refused on that and the following Sabbath; that upon this Mr Brown made an addition to his libel, adding many harsh epithets to those above inserted, and afterwards gave in a second libel against Mr Kennedy; that on the other hand, Mr Kennedy gave in a libel against Mr Brown, founded on the fray in the church, occasioned by Mr Brown's endeavouring to hinder an elder from collecting, and concluding for suspension; that in the presbytery, Feb. 4. 1772, the question being put, Whether Mr Kennedy had a right to exercise his office as an elder, or not? two country-elders voted that he had no right, and one minister voted that he had a right, so it carried he had no right; Mr Kennedy appealed to the synod; that the synod, disapproving of the presbytery, for finding that Mr Kennedy had no right to exercise his office as an elder, reversed their sentence, and "found Mr Kennedy in the full possession of every part of his office as an elder;" Mr Brown appealed to the assembly; that Mr Brown, April 25. the Saturday after the synod, called

the elders to the manſe, and adviſed them to decline the exerciſe of their office as elders till the aſſembly ſhould be over, repreſenting, that if the commiſſion of the member from Lochmaben to the aſſembly could not be got atteſted for want of a ſeſſion, and that if the aſſembly ſhould find the reaſon of this to be, that none of the elders would ſit in ſeſſion with Mr Kennedy, this would lead the aſſembly to juſtify the ſeſſion for ſuſpending him, and to continue his ſuſpenſion; — and one of the elders depoſed, that Mr Brown took him into a room by themſelves, and upon his refuſing to decline exerciſing his office as propoſed, ſaid to him, "Do you not owe ſomething to the ſeſſion, viz. the remainder of a bill? and he anſwered, that he did; and Mr Brown ſaid to him, that he would take him off the ſeſſion's hands; but Mr Brown did not ſay that he would pay it for him;" — that the commiſſion, to whom this cauſe was referred, on the 3d of June unanimouſly affirmed the ſentence of the ſynod; recommended to the preſbytery, to require from the kirk-ſeſſion of Lochmaben a full extract of all their proceedings in that matter, remitted to the preſbytery a repreſentation of the kirk-ſeſſion of Lochmaben to the ſynod of Dumfries in April 1772, ſigned by Mr Brown, given into court by the counſel for the ſeſſion, and at his deſire read; and recommended to the preſbytery to cognoſce and give judgement upon the whole; that two of the elders applied to the prebytery, July 7. for advice, giving an extract from the minutes of ſeſſion, relating to the elders declining the exerciſe of their office, and to collect for the poor, and repreſenting, that on ſundry occaſions they were prevented from having a ſeſſion, by the miniſter's abſolute refuſal to conſtitute one when openly demanded; and were adviſed to continue in their uſual way; that Mr Kennedy gave in a new libel againſt Mr Brown, chiefly on this head, concluding for depoſition, (all the libels are inſerted in the Caſe); that the preſbytery, after having had this affair ſundry times before them, deſired Mr Brown, March 2. 1773, to condeſcend upon what alleviating circumſtances he was to endeavour to prove in Mr Kennedy's firſt libel; which he abſolutely refuſed to do, and at the ſame time fell into ſuch tranſports of paſſion, and inſulted the preſbytery and Mr Kennedy to ſuch a degree, that the preſbytery found themſelves under the mortifying and diſagreeable neceſſity to call the magiſtrates of the town, to prevent more dreadful conſequences, and Mr Brown entered a long injurious proteſt; that the preſbytery having taken the proof on Mr Kennedy's libels, one of the miniſters moved, April 13. that both Mr Kennedy's libels againſt Mr Brown ſhould be diſmiſſed, and being backed by a prepared *poſſe* of country-elders, he carried his motion by theſe elders alone, ſome of whom had never heard any part of the cauſe till that day, and the libels were diſmiſſed; Mr Kennedy appealed to the ſynod, and the other miniſters preſent who voted, diſſented, &c.; that the ſynod having injoined the preſbytery, "to finiſh *quam primum* the proof on all the libels, and then to proceed to give judgement thereon," refuſed to take in Mr Kennedy's appeal, becauſe ſome extracts were wanting; Mr Kennedy appealed to the aſſembly; and that the preſbytery, having ſat the 4th, 5th, and 6th days of May, concluded the proof, and referred the whole cauſe or cauſes to the aſſembly. — Appearance was made in this aſſembly for Mr Kennedy, for Mr Brown and the kirk-ſeſſion, for the preſbytery, and for the ſynod. The judgement of the commiſſion, a repreſentation by the ſeſſion of Lochmaben to the ſynod of Dumfries, and the reference by the preſbytery of Lochmaben to this aſſembly, were all read. Parties were heard at great length, the hearing having taken up a great part of both Saturday and Monday. After which a motion was made, That Mr Kennedy might be ſuppoſed to be under a miſtake when he claimed a ſeat in the ſynod; that the libels againſt him ſhould be diſmiſſed; that the libels againſt Mr Brown be diſmiſſed; and that a recommendation be given to all parties concerned, to follow after thoſe things which make for peace and edification. But this motion being oppoſed, a vote was ſtated, Approve; or, Proceed to the particular conſideration of the cauſe? and carried, Proceed, 75 to 37. Afterward another motion was made, viz. That the moderator of the aſſembly ſhould rebuke Mr Brown from the chair; and that an extract of this ſentence ſhould be given to the preſbytery of Lochmaben, to be recorded in their books, and in conſequence of this the libels againſt Mr Brown be diſmiſſed; and that Mr Kennedy ſhould be reponed to the full exerciſe of

of his office, and aſſoilzied from the libels given him? Which motion being conſidered, was, without a vote, agreed to by the aſſembly; and Mr Brown was rebuked accordingly.

On Monday, May 31. the laſt ſederunt, the window-tax committee was continued, with the ſame powers as formerly.

On report of the committee appointed to conſider a petition for Robert Fleming, printer to the church, concerning the neglect of kirk-ſeſſions purchaſing the acts of aſſembly, the aſſembly revived the enactments of aſſ. 1645, p. 30. aſſ. 1700, act 16. and aſſ. 1705, act 18.; recommending to all kirk-ſeſſions to buy the printed acts of aſſembly; and enjoining preſbyteries and ſynods to make inquiry, at privy cenſures, how far this recommendation is obſerved by the ſeſſions within their bounds.

Reaſons of diſſent from the judgements of this aſſembly in the ſettlements of St Ninian's [247.], Cardroſs, and Cambuſlang, and concerning the elder from the borough of Air [245.], were given in, read, and ordered to be kept *in retentis*.

The aſſembly referred all cauſes brought before this aſſembly, and before the laſt commiſſion, and not diſcuſſed by them, to the commiſſion appointed by this aſſembly, with power to them to judge and finally determine therein.

The aſſembly admitted proteſtation at the inſtance of Meſſ. Alexander Chalmers and Algernon Gordon, in name of the preſbytery of Strathbogie, and at the inſtance of Mr David Rentoul, &c. in name of the ſynod of Moray, againſt George Stevenſon, George Chalmers, William Stephen, William Leſly, and Alexander Gordon, for not inſiſting in an appeal taken by them from a ſentence of the ſaid preſbytery and ſynod, depoſing them from the office of elders, and declared the appeal fallen from; — and it being repreſented, that the preſbytery of Strathbogie had depoſed certain elders upon acts of immorality; and that they had appealed to the ſynod, and in the mean time thruſt themſelves into the ſeſſion, and detained papers belonging to it; the aſſembly prohibited them to exerciſe their office as elders till their appeal be diſcuſſed, and ordered them to deliver up all papers belonging to the ſeſſion.

The aſſembly was concluded in the uſual manner, the next aſſembly being appointed to meet in the ſame place on Thurſday, May 19. 1774.

MARRIAGES.

April 28. At Linſtead Lodge, Thomas Moſtyn, Eſq; third ſon of Sir George Moſtyn of Tallacre in Flintſhire, Bt, to the Hon. Mary Catherine Roper, eldeſt daughter of Lord Teynham.

May 19. At London, Lord Viſcount Townſhend, to Miſs Anne Montgomery, daughter of William Montgomery, of Macbiehill, Eſq; and niece of the Lord Advocate of Scotland.

20. At Rome, James Peſton, Eſq; of Horton in Glouceſterſhire, to the Hon. Conſtantia Fontana, of a Noble family of that city.

BIRTHS.

April 10. A poor woman, who, by the dreadful exploſion which happened at Cheſter Nov. 5. 1772 [xxxiv. 633.], was bruiſed in a terrible manner, and burnt on the back of both hands, and on the left eye-brow, being pretty well recovered of the injuries ſhe received, was this day delivered of two dead children, one having a bliſter as large as a pigeon's egg on the back of each hand, the other having a mark correſponding to the injury the mother received over the left eye. — It is requeſted, that ſome of our correſpondents would beſtow the pains to authenticate the fact, in order to determine a queſtion concerning impreſſions from the mother, about which naturaliſts are divided. — The woman died April 13. *Gent. Mag.*

May 3. At London, the Counteſs of Strathmore, delivered of a ſon. [xxxiii. 614.]

18. At Edinburgh, Lady Wallace, wife of Sir Thomas Wallace of Craigie, Bt, of a ſon. [xxxiv. 516.]

At Newry, in Ireland, the wife of Charles Grant of Ballygorrian, of a ſon, in the 65th year of her age, and in the 95th of her huſband's. It has been remarked of this old pair, that they have always led a regular, abſtemious life, deteſting ſpirituous liquors, and ſeldom uſing ſauces, however delicious or ſavoury.

24. At Geanies, in Roſsſhire, Mrs Macleod of Geanies, of a daughter.

29. At Glouceſter-houſe, the Ducheſs of Glouceſter, of a daughter. [xxxiii. 614.]

DEATHS.

Sept. 1772. At Vizigapaten, on the coaſt of Coromandel, Lieut. Robert Forbes, in the Eaſt-India company's ſervice.

Oct. 29. At St Vincent's, Mrs Dundas, wife of Major Dundas of the 68th regiment.

At Bombay, in an action againſt the Narcot of Broach, Brigadier-General Wedderburn, ſon of the deceaſed Lord Cheſterhall [xviii. 367], and brother of the Solicitor-General.

Jan. 1773. At ſea, on his paſſage home, Col. Charles Tod, in the Eaſt-India company's ſervice.

At

At Montreal, in Canada, ——— Simpſon, Eſq. a captain of the royal regiment of artillery.

At Barbadoes, Capt. Clark, of his Majeſty's ſhip Kennington.

March 22. In South Carolina, the Hon. Othniel Beale, Eſq; Preſident of his Majeſty's council, a native of New England, where he was born in June 1688.

Near Koningſberg in Pruſſia, a woman lately died at the age of 99, who has left 13 children, 124 grand children, 114 great-grand-children, and 13 great-great grand-children, all ſaid to be alive.

Ignatius Nugent, Eſq; of Finglas in Ireland, grandſon of Richard, E. of Weſtmeath. He has left three ſons, two of whom ſerved all the laſt war in Germany, one as Captain, the other as Lieutenant, in the 20th regiment of foot.

April 1. At Saunders-court, Wexford county, Arthur Gore, Earl of Arran, one of his Majeſty's privy council in Ireland; leaving iſſue, Arthur Saunders Gore, Lord Sudley, who ſucceeds him, Richard and Paul Gores, and Lady Anne Dally.

At Carlow in Ireland, Major Aſt'e, aged 100.

At Rotterdam, Rachel Salomon, a Jeweſs, relict of Levi Phillips, aged 110. She has left 9 children, 32 grand-children, and 25 great-grand-children.

28. At Woolwich, the lady of Lt-Col. William Hiſlop, Major in the royal regiment of artillery.

28. At Galway in Ireland, Capt. John Robertſon, of the Royal Highlanders, only brother of James Robertſon, Eſq; of Lude, Perthſhire.

In the royal hoſpital, Dublin, James Keating, one of the ſoldiers, aged 103.

May 1. In the ſame hoſpital, Hugh Moran, another of the ſoldiers. He was about 113 years old, ſerved all K. William and Q. Anne's wars, continued in the army till 1726, and was then diſcharged for old age. He had his memory till within a ſhort while of his death.

2. At London, Nicholas Linwood, Eſq; member for Aldborough.

3. At Glaſgow, in the 64th year of his age, and 39th of his miniſtry, Mr James Stirling miniſter, in the Eaſt parith, or Outer kirk, in that city.

7. At Edinburgh, in an advanced age, Mrs Eliſabeth Turnbull, widow of James Auchinleck of Woodcockdale.

9. At Little Chelſea, James Macdonald, Eſq; formerly an officer in the Scots Greys.

10. At Edinburgh, Mr John Strachan, merchant in that city.

11. At Glaſgow, Mr David Lyon, a miniſter of the Epiſcopal church of Scotland.

11. At Aberdeen, James Gordon of Cobairdie, Eſq;

12. At St Alban's, John Richardſon, Eſq; many years Major of Bland's regiment of dragoon-guards.

12. At Truro in Cornwall, Henry Phillips, carpenter, aged 127. He enjoyed his hearing and eye-ſight to the laſt.

14. At Heiſtone in Cornwall, one Gatty, a tailor, aged 104.

At Elgin, Dr Alexander Sutherland, late phyſician in Bath and Briſtol.

At Leeds in Yorkſhire, Peter Delme, Eſq; aged 104.

At Stepney, the Rev. Mr John Entick, author of the hiſtory of the late war, a new Latin and Engliſh dictionary, and other books for the uſe of ſchools.

16. At London, Alexander Campbell, Eſq; one of the Equerries to the Duke of Cumberland, and Captain of a company in the third regiment of foot-guards.

17. At Edinburgh, Mrs Rannie, widow of David Rannie of Melvill, Eſq;

18. At Aberdeen, in the 81ſt year of his age, Alexander Thomſon of Banchory, Eſq;

18. At Dunfermling, Capt. James Moutray.

18. At London, Mrs Lee, aged 104.

18. At Apſley, Bedfordſhire, Mary Worſley, aged 105. Her ſon, aged 88, was chief mourner at her funeral.

In the pariſh of Drumoak, Robert Guthrie, in the 103d year of his age.

20. At Hanover, Prince Charles of Mecklenburg Strelitz, about 14 months old.

21. At Boyton in Salisbury, the Hon. Mrs Lambert, wife of Edmond Lambert, Eſq; of that place, and daughter and ſole heireſs of the late Lord Viſcount Mayo, of Ireland.

21. At Edinburgh, Mr James M'Kay, coppersmith in that city.

At Snettiſham in Norfolk, David Hamilton, Eſq; ſon of Sir David Hamilton.

25. At London, aged about 10 years, the Hon. William Murray, ſecond ſon of the Earl of Dunmore.

25. At Putney Common, in the 83d year of his age, General Hudſon.

26. At her apartments in Somerſet-Houſe, London, Mrs Travers, ſiſter of the Ducheſs of Hamilton, and upper houſekeeper of Somerſet-Houſe.

27. At London, advanced in years, Mary Ducheſs of Norfolk. She was married in 1727, and was the daughter and co-heir of Ed. Blount, Eſq; of Blagdon in Devonſhire.

28. At Machany in Perthſhire, the ſeat of the family, in a very advanced age, Margaret, Viſcounteſs-dowager of Strathallan. This lady was eldeſt daughter of William Lord Nairn, and ſiſter of John Lord Nairn, who died in France July 11. 1770; and had iſſue to her Lord, (who was killed in the battle of Culloden), 1. James, deceaſed, who married a ſiſter of Mr Gordon of Abergaildy; by whom he left iſſue, James, the preſent repreſentative of the family, an officer in the

the navy. 2. William, who married a daughter of Major Nairn, and died at Machany in 1772, leaving iſſue, [xxxiv. 277.]. 3. John, banker in London, who died ſome years ago. 4. 5. Robert, Henry, bankers in London. And ſeveral daughters, who died unmarried.

29. At his houſe in Roſsſhire, in an advanced age, George Mackenzie of Allangrange, Eſq;

30. At Craigſtone in Aberdeenſhire, Mrs Urquhart of Craigſtone.

PREFERMENTS.

From the London Gazette.

The King has been pleaſed,

May 1. to grant unto Thomas Browne, Eſq; (Norroy King of Arms), the office of Clarencieux King of Arms.

25. to appoint Thomas Wilſon, Eſq; Chief Juſtice of the iſland of Dominica, in the room of James Aſhley Hall, Eſq; deceaſed.

to appoint William Myres, Eſq; Lieutenant-Governor of the province of Senegambia in Africa, and alſo to be Superintendant of Trade in the ſaid province, in the room of John Gilpin Sawrey, Eſq; deceaſed.

to appoint Joſeph Wall, Eſq; Secretary and Clerk of the Council of the province of Senegambia in Africa, in the room of Theobald Burke, Eſq; deceaſed.

to grant unto Ralph Bigland, Eſq; Somerſet Herald, the office of Norroy King of Arms, and Principal Herald of the North Part of England.

29. to conſtitute and appoint Chriſtopher Rigby, John Trenchard, Thomas Wyndham, Daniel Bull, George Blount, Charles Dering, and John Eames, Eſqs, to be Commiſſioners for holding intelligence and correſpondence with the Receivers General of the Taxes.

to appoint Francis Burton, Eſq; to be Comptroller of the duties upon Salt and Rock-ſalt.

War-office, May 1. 1773.

1ſt troop of horſe-guards: Sub-Brig. and Corn. Thomas Roberts is appointed to be Brigadier and Lieutenant, vice Richard Gamon; by purchaſe.

Ditto: John Morſe, Gent. to be Sub-Brigadier and Cornet, vice Thomas Roberts; by purchaſe.

King's own reg. of dragoons: Corn. James Lovibond to be Lieutenant, vice Joſeph Vernon; by purchaſe.

Ditto: John Ince, Gent. to be Cornet, vice James Lovibond; by purchaſe.

Queen's reg. of dragoons: John Grimſton, Gent. to be Cornet, vice William Tuffnell, preferred; by purchaſe.

1ſt reg. of foot-guards: Rowland Maltby, Gent. to be Solicitor, vice William Luard, who reſigns.

3d reg. of foot-guards: Enſ. John Watſon Tadwell Watſon to be Lieutenant, vice Thomas Needham, deceaſed.

Ditto: ——— Roduey, Gent. to be Enſign, vice John Watſon Tadwell Watſon.

1ſt bat. of the royal reg. of foot: Enſ. Thomas Erſkine to be Lieutenant, vice Alexander Campbell, preferred; by purchaſe.

Queen's reg. of foot: Capt. James Parker to be Major, vice John Pennington preferred; by purchaſe.

14th reg. of foot: Thomas Hayter, Gent. to be Enſign, vice Edward Gower, preferred; by purchaſe.

16th reg. of foot: Enſ. Luke Home to be Lieutenant, vice John Litchfield; by purchaſe.

Ditto: Nathaniel Lindegreen, Gent. to be Enſign, vice Luke Home, by purchaſe.

31ſt reg. of foot: Maj. Alexander Mackenzie to be Lieutenant-Colonel, vice Ralph Walſh, deceaſed.

32d reg. of foot: Lieut. Joſeph Wall, from half-pay, to be Lieutenant, vice John Edie, who exchanges.

33d reg. of foot: George Duke, Gent. to be Enſign, vice Ingram Ball; by purchaſe.

35th reg. of foot: Surg. Alexander Home to be Surgeon, vice Alexander Donaldſon, who exchanges.

1ſt bat. of the royal American reg. of foot: Enſ. Jeffery Amherſt to be Lieutenant, vice Thomas Delamain, preferred; by purchaſe.

Ditto: Charles Butter, Gent. to be Enſign, vice William Kelly, preferred; by purchaſe.

Ditto: James Fahy, Gent. to be Enſign, vice Jeffery Amherſt, preferred; by purchaſe.

68th reg. of foot: Volunteer William Byam to be Enſign, vice George Mackay, deceaſed

70th reg. of foot: Robert Mackay, Gent. to be Enſign, vice Samuel Bruce, deceaſed.

Ditto: Serj. William Kenyon, late of the 20th regiment of foot, to be Town Adjutant of the garriſon of Gibraltar, vice John Tyrrell, deceaſed.

War-office, May 10.

Maj.-Gen. Bernard Hale is appointed to be Lieutenant-Governor of Chelſea Hoſpital, vice John Campbell, deceaſed.

Maj.-Gen. George Lane Parker, of the 1ſt reg. of foot-guards, to be Colonel of the 20th regiment of foot, vice Bernard Hale.

Prince of Wales's regiment of dragoon-guards: Corn. Edward Milbanke to be Lieutenant, vice James Forde; by purchaſe.

Ditto: George Henry Monſon, Gent. to be Cornet, vice Edward Milbanke; by purchaſe.

1ſt reg. of foot-guards: Maj.-Gen. Nevil Tatton to be Second Major, vice George Lane Parker; preferred.

Ditto:

Ditto: Maj.-Gen. Richard Earl of Cavan to be Third Major, vice Nevil Tatton.

Ditto: Lieut.-Col. John Howard to be Captain of a company, vice the Earl of Cavan.

Ditto: Capt. Temple Weſt to be Captain-Lieutenant, vice John Howard.

Ditto: Enſ. Frederick Thomas to be Lieutenant, vice Temple Weſt.

Ditto: —— Naſſau, Gent. to be Enſign, vice Frederick Thomas.

13th reg. of foot: John Ogilvy, Gent. to be Enſign, vice Samuel Cleaveland, preferred; by purchaſe.

Ditto: Lieut. Francis Chapeau to be Captain, vice Randolph Carliel; by purchaſe.

Ditto: Enſ. Thomas Staunton to be Lieutenant, vice Francis Chapeau; by purchaſe.

Ditto: Richard Gideon Hand, Gent. to be Enſign, vice Thomas Staunton; by purchaſe.

25th reg. of foot: John Miller, Gent. to be Enſign, vice Patrick Brown; preferred.

Ditto: Richard Roſe, Gent. to be Enſign, vice George Godfrey; by purchaſe.

37th reg. of foot: Lieut. Edward Speake, from halfpay, to be Lieutenant, vice George Hinde, who exchanges.

50th reg. of foot: Firſt Lieut. Thomas Pemberton, of the 23d reg. of foot, to be Captain, vice Charles Skottouce; by purchaſe.

56th reg. of foot: Enſ. James Barrington to be Lieutenant, vice William Somerville; by purchaſe.

Ditto: George Fitzwilliams, Gent. to be Enſign, vice James Barrington; by purchaſe.

War-office, May 31.

King's own reg. of dragoons: Lieut. Thomas Clarke is appointed to be Captain-Lieutenant, vice Robert Keily; by purchaſe.

Ditto: Corn. Nathaniel Curzon to be Lieutenant, vice Thomas Clarke; by purchaſe.

Ditto: Criſp Chandler Gaſcoyne, Gent. to be Cornet, vice Nathaniel Curzon; by purchaſe.

3d reg. of foot-guards: Capt Coſmo Gordon to be Captain-Lieutenant, vice Alexander Campbell, deceaſed.

Ditto: Enſ. William Faucitt to be Lieutenant, vice Coſmo Gordon.

Ditto: John St Leger Douglas, Gent. to be Enſign, vice William Faucitt.

2d battalion of the royal reg. of foot: David Graham, Gent. to be Enſign, vice Thomas Erſkine, preferred; by purchaſe.

Royal reg. of fuzileers: Lieut. Henry Charles Selwyn to be Quartermaſter, vice John Harriſon; by purchaſe.

13th reg. of foot: James Johnſton, Gent. to be Enſign, vice John Watſell; by purchaſe.

14th reg. of foot: Thomas Pellet Scrimſhire, Gent. to be Enſign, vice Francis Wilkie; by purchaſe.

22d reg. of foot: Capt. Edward Brabazon to be Captain, vice Charles Forbes; by purchaſe.

Ditto: Lieut. Robert Timpſon to be Captain-Lieutenant, vice Edward Brabazon; by purchaſe.

Dito: Enſ. Adam Gouldney to be Lieutenant, vice Robert Timpſon; by purchaſe.

Ditto: Robert Porterfield, Gent. to be Enſign, vice Adam Gouldney; by purchaſe.

Royal reg. of Welch fuſileers: Second Lieut. Richard Williams to be Firſt Lieutenant, vice Thomas Pemberton, preferred; by purchaſe.

Ditto: John Boadie Forlow, Gent. to be Second Lieutenant, vice Richard Williams; by purchaſe.

31ſt reg. of foot: Capt. John Roſs to be Major, vice Alexander M'Kenzie, preferred.

Ditto: Capt. Henry Pilot to be Captain, vice John Roſs.

Ditto: Lieut. James Boucher to be Captain-Lieutenant, vice Henry Pilot.

Ditto: Enſ. Robert Stordy to be Lieutenant, vice James Boucher.

Ditto: Thomas Huſſey, Gent. to be Enſign, vice Robert Stordy.

Freke Dilkes Hore, Gent. to be Commiſſary of the Muſters, and Judge-Advocate of Annapolis Royal in Nova Scotia, vice Edington, who reſigns.

The Edinburgh bill of burials for May 1773.

Within the city	Males 15	Fem. 28	43	78. Decr. 8.
In the Weſt-kirk-yard	Males 16	Fem. 19	35	

Age.			No	Diſeaſes.	No
Under		2	26	Aged ——	16
Between	2 &	5	7	Bowelhive ——	6
	5 &	10	2	Chincough ——	5
	10 &	20	4	Conſumption —	20
	20 &	30	2	Fever ——	11
	30 &	40	5	Gravel ——	2
	40 &	50	6	Inflammation ——	1
	50 &	60	9	Jaundice ——	2
	60 &	70	7	Small pox ——	8
	70 &	80	8	Stillborn ——	2
	80 &	90	1	Suddenly ——	2
	90 &	100	1	Palſie ——	2

Edinburgh, June 18. 1773. Oat-meal, 1s. 1d. Bear-meal, 8d. 2 f. Peaſe-meal, 9 d.

Prices of grain at Haddington, June 11. 1773.

	Beſt.	*Second.*	*Third.*
Wheat,	22 s. 6 d.	21 s. 0 d.	19 s. 8 d.
Bear,	23 s. 0 d.	20 s. 6 d.	19 s. 6 d.
Oats,	15 s. 2 d.	14 s. 6 d.	12 s. 2 d.
Peaſe,	17 s. 0 d.	16 s. 0 d.	14 s. 8 d.